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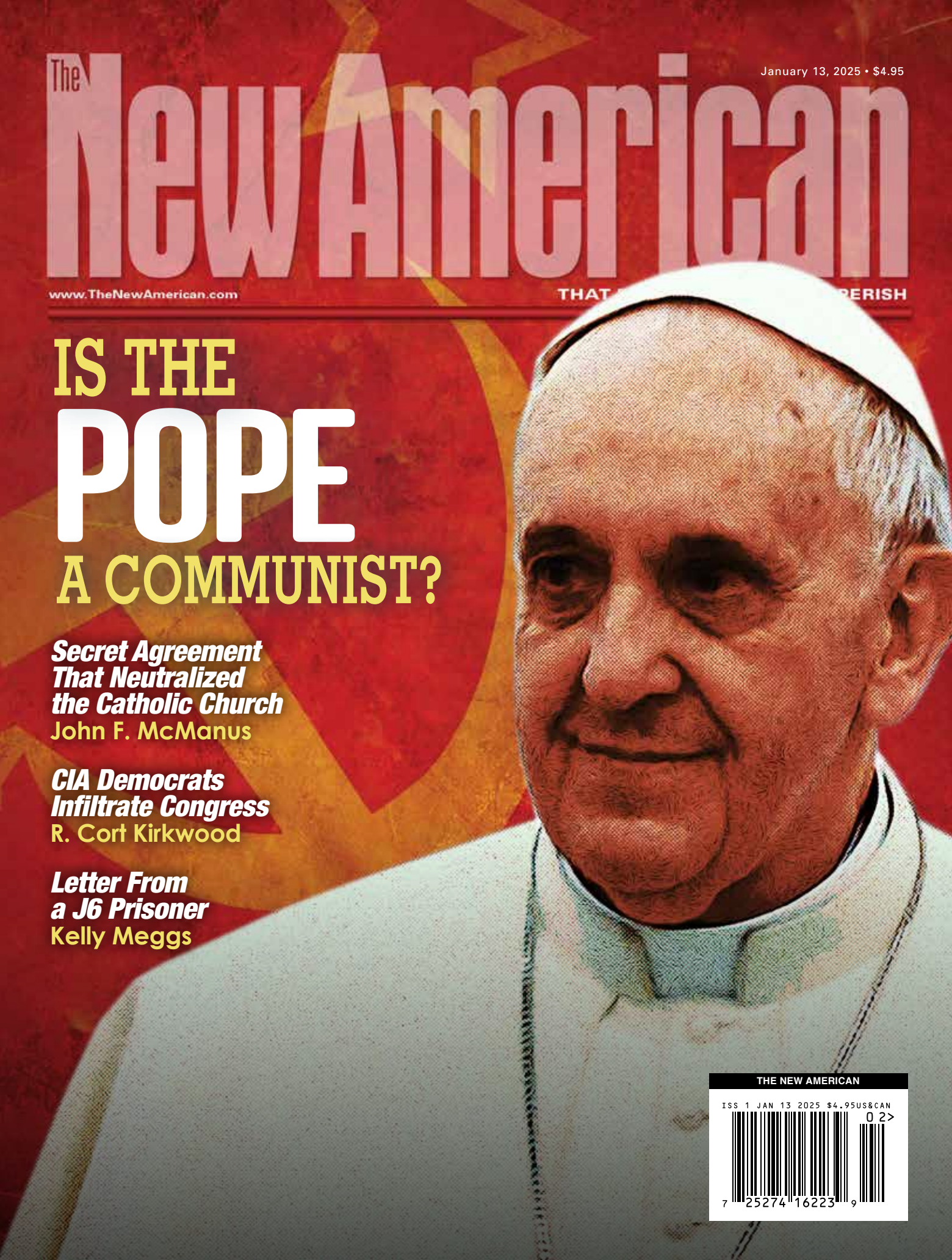
IS THE POPE A COMMUNIST?

Secret Agreement That Neutralized the Catholic Church
John F. McManus

CIA Democrats Infiltrate Congress
R. Cort Kirkwood

Letter From a J6 Prisoner
Kelly Meggs



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New American

Vol. 41, No. 1 January 13, 2025

Cover Story

RELIGION

10 Is the Pope a Communist?
by William F. Jasper — Since his election in the papal conclave of 2013, Pope Francis has embraced communist dictatorships and reversed the Catholic Church's nearly two centuries of stalwart opposition to communism and socialism.

16 Popes Against Collectivism
by William F. Jasper

19 Secret Agreement That Neutralized the Catholic Church
by John F. McManus — The Catholic Church had already muted its anti-communist voice when this essay was first published in 1985. Since then, that voice has been not only neutralized, but reversed.

Features

CONGRESS

27 CIA Democrats Infiltrate Congress
by R. Cort Kirkwood — A Democratic military/intelligence combine has penetrated Congress. Its members hope to frustrate Trump's America First, anti-globalist agenda.

FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM

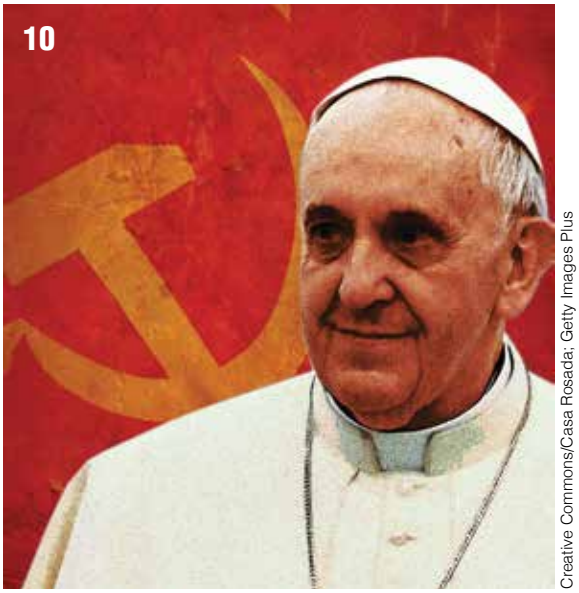
32 Letter From a J6 Prisoner
by Kelly Meggs

THE REVIEW

38 • *The Founders Recipe: How to Make a Madison* by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.
• *The War on Prices: How Popular Misconceptions About Inflation, Prices, and Value Create Bad Policy*, edited by Ryan A. Bourne

Departments

5 From the Editor
7 Inside Track
9 QuickQuotes
35 The Goodness of America
36 Exercising the Right
44 The Last Word



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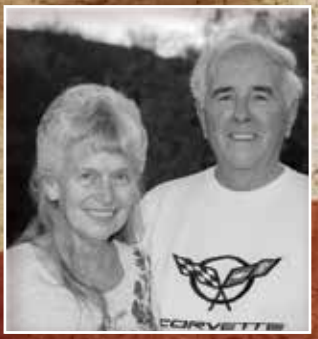

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Is the Pope Catholic?

I remember being asked that question going back to my childhood. It struck me as a silly way to respond to a question where the answer was yes — not just yes, but so emphatically and obviously yes that the answer could not have been anything else.

During those childhood years, I never imagined that the question "Is the pope Catholic?" could one day be asked not as a sarcastic response to another question, but as a serious question in and of itself. But times have changed. So much so that, when senior editor William F. Jasper began working on the cover story appearing in this issue, the working title was (you guessed it!) "Is the Pope Catholic?" with no hint of sarcasm intended. But as you can see from the cover, Jasper decided instead to title his article "Is the Pope a Communist?" and we concurred.

Deciding which was a better title was not an easy call. Both questions are provocative, perhaps equally so. They are also supported by ample evidence to warrant raising the question seriously. And they are related. After all, if the pope is a communist, then he cannot be a Catholic — at least not sincerely — since the dogmas of the Catholic Church and of communism are antithetical to each other. To say that a communist can be a Catholic, or vice versa, makes about as much sense as saying that water can be dry. Except, of course, that a communist can *pretend* to be a Catholic. And such a pretender can not only become a priest, but could also eventually become a pope.

Jesus warned against such pretenders when He said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." And how do we know when wolves may be disguised in sheep's clothing? Jesus explained, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Undoubtedly a few will claim that calling into question the pope's fidelity to Catholic doctrine is anti-Catholic. We disagree. In fact, we believe that applying the "By their fruits ye shall know them" litmus test to Catholic prelates is no more anti-Catholic than applying the same test to Protestant prelates is anti-Protestant — or applying it to U.S. government officials is anti-American.

Regarding the latter, many Americans now recognize that our constitutional republic and the freedoms it safeguards have been undermined by a Deep State that constitutes an invisible government behind and above the visible government of the United States. But in addition to the Deep State's subversion of government, is there also a "Deep Church" working to subvert the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations from within? Moreover, are the Deep State and Deep Church two prongs of a multi-pronged world revolution that has long sought to destroy the existing order and replace it with a communistic new world order?

The evidence shows beyond any reasonable doubt that such a conspiracy does exist, and that it has waged war against God and man both overtly and covertly for centuries. However, a covert revolution within the form that's carried out by wolves in sheep's clothing can prove to be far more dangerous and destructive to the targeted church or government than the old-fashioned frontal assault, since the revolutionary changes from within may not be fully recognized until it is too late to successfully counteract the threat. The cross and the flag may remain, at least for a time, while the religion and the government are gradually and insidiously transformed.

In this issue of *The New American*, we touch on some of the evidence exposing just one prong of this conspiracy in two articles: the aforementioned "Is the Pope a Communist?" and "Secret Agreement That Neutralized the Catholic Church" by the late John F. McManus (see pages 10 and 19). The latter, a reprint from 1985, shows that the infiltration of the Catholic Church began long before Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio became Pope Francis in 2013.

Because of the great influence that the more-than-one-billion-member Catholic Church and its pope have throughout the world, we encourage Catholics and non-Catholics alike to read these articles. We also encourage praying as if everything depends upon God, and working as if everything depends upon man, to save our Christian-style civilization.

— *Gary Benoit*

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EPA Dumping Tax Dollars to Shield Them From Trump

On December 3, Project Veritas released an undercover interview with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employee Brent Efron, who said the EPA is hurriedly doling out taxpayer funds to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) before President-elect Donald Trump takes office. As noted by the December 5 New York Sun, the money is coming from President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

Efron, a special advisor implementing the Biden administration's climate agenda, spoke about his role in giving out more than $100 billion in grants before Trump takes over. "Now it's how to get the money out as fast as possible before they [the Trump administration] come in.… It's like we're on the *Titanic* and we're throwing gold bars off the edge," Efron said.

Trump has said he will remove the United States from the Paris climate agreement, as he did during his first term, and that he has a plan to "terminate the Green New Deal, which I call the Green New Scam."

Efron feels that the climate NGOs will shield the federal funds from Trump's administration. "We gave them [the nonprofits] the money because … it was an insurance policy against Trump winning. Because [the NGOs] aren't [a government agency], they're safer from Republicans taking the money away…. We're getting [funding] out as quick as possible…. We've got most of it out — like 90 percent," he said. He also said he plans to keep releasing funds until told to stop. "It's until the Trump people come in and tell us we can no longer give out money. That's at the very earliest the 20th [of January 2025]."

Many have suggested that the president's new Department of Government Efficiency quickly investigate the EPA's haphazard release of tax dollars. After all, it doesn't seem very "efficient" to shovel taxpayer dollars into green NGOs simply because a new administration is set to take over. Just as importantly, an employee of the EPA is bragging about throwing taxpayer money away in order to undermine an incoming president.

JOE CICAK/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Goldman Sachs Leaves UN's Net Zero Banking Alliance

Reuters reported on December 6 that financial industry giant Goldman Sachs will no longer participate in the UN-backed Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) — which boasts a membership of more than 140 global banks with the goal of creating net-zero emissions by 2050. Reuters said the banking giant gave no specific reason for the departure, though it hinted that certain regulatory demands from the European Union may have been a factor.

Goldman Sachs' is the latest high-profile departure of a financial institution from a global climate alliance in the wake of scrutiny by American lawmakers concerned that banks are attempting to severely limit financial options for fossil-fuel concerns because of climate change. J.P.Morgan Asset Management, Franklin Templeton, and Vanguard have recently left similar climate coalitions.

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Goldman Sachs said in a statement, "Our priorities remain to help our clients achieve their sustainability goals and to measure and report on our progress." However, while they assure their investors that they remain committed to championing sustainability and climate-change action, their departure from the UN group says volumes.

Banks are increasingly discovering that ESG (environmental, social, governance) investing is bad for business. In essentially acting as a conduit for left-wing political action, many banks have become persona non grata for state pension funds. Noting the government's involvement in ESG investing, in a letter to President Joe Biden in 2023, GOP Texas Governor Greg Abbott said, "Over the past two years, you have tried to stifle the American energy sector with your ESG fanaticism, your overly aggressive Environmental Protection Agency, and your favoritism of foreign oil over homegrown energy. By pushing this radical ESG agenda, you are risking the lifelong savings of millions, for political points." Thus far, at least 20 states have effectively banned ESG investing in state pension funds.

Climate zealots have been concerned since the reelection of Donald Trump in November that their crisis narrative about climate change may be in trouble. Goldman Sachs' decision to leave the NZBA suggests they may be right about that.

Drunk-driving Illegal Alien Kills Seven-year-old

Seven-year-old Ivory Smith of Houston, Texas, was killed on December 1 when a drunk-driving illegal alien plowed into her mom's car.

KHOU 11 News in Houston reported on December 3 that Joel Gonzalez Chacin was charged with killing the little girl after running a red light at 2:00 a.m. and hitting the vehicle in which Ivory and her mom were traveling. He "displayed multiple signs of intoxication" at the scene, the station reported, and cared nothing for the two victims. After the wreck, he didn't try to help them, cops said. Instead, he "got out of his car and started taking photos of the scene." He was charged with "intoxication manslaughter," a felony, and hit with a $150,000 bond.

69/Adobe Stock

It isn't clear when Chacin landed in the United States, or whether he had been caught and released at the border. The CBS affiliate in Austin did confirm that he is a Venezuelan, and that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had placed a detainer on him with the Harris County Jail following the accident. Amazingly, though, jail authorities "did not immediately respond to a request … seeking confirmation as to whether it [would] honor the detainer request," the station reported. (A detainer on a criminal alien asks authorities to hold him past his release date so ICE can deport him.)

Chacin isn't the first illegal alien to kill an American child while driving drunk.

In December 2023, another Venezuelan illegal, Endrina Bracho, was charged with first-degree involuntary manslaughter in the vehicular homicide of Travis Wolfe in Hazelwood, Missouri. Driving without a license, police allege — and with her own two children in the car with her — she hurtled 1,700 feet — a third of a mile — down a 40-mph street on the wrong side at 75 mph and struck the Wolfe family's vehicle.

Injured in the crash were Travis' parents, who suffered "broken wrists, broken ribs, a broken sternum, and more." Travis, who never woke up, died in the hospital. The boy was one day away from his 12th birthday.

Greater Idaho Movement Looks to Trump for Help

Unhappy with what they consider the state of Oregon's recalcitrance in considering their demands to move the state's borders so that many counties would belong instead to the state of Idaho, members of the Greater Idaho Movement are seeking some high-level assistance. According to Central Oregon Daily News on December 4, leaders of Greater Idaho sent a letter to President-elect Donald Trump requesting his support. Many in eastern Oregon are frustrated with the lack of concrete efforts by the state government in Salem to take their concerns seriously, and feel that Trump can use his ability as a "practical problem-solver" to grease the wheels.

Thus far, 13 eastern Oregon counties, mainly east of the Cascades, have voted to study such a move, but Oregon Governor Tina Kotek (D) and the leftist state government have largely ignored them. Greater Idaho President Mike McCarter said in a December 4 statement that the group has "reached out to the Oregon Legislature and Governor Kotek but gotten no response. Oregon state government hasn't been willing to listen to eastern Oregonians, but we believe the President will."

"As leadership for the Citizens for Greater Idaho movement, we are excited to see the promise of your incoming administration for solving old political problems with new approaches. Unlike typical politicians, you have a unique ability as a practical problem-solver to get things done, and your support can bring a peaceful resolution to Oregon's longstanding east-west divide. Helping achieve this would only cement your legacy as a peacemaker and transformational president," the letter to Trump reads.

As of this writing, neither Trump nor any of his surrogates had commented publicly on the request.

Greater Idaho is one of several movements of people unhappy about their representation in left-leaning states. Campaigns also exist in Illinois, where 33 counties have voted to consider leaving Chicago and Cook County, and in Northern California, where supporters of the State of Jefferson would like to see a break from the leftist policies of Sacramento. ■

omersukrugoksu/iStock/Getty Images Plus

QUICK QUOTES

"As far as we can tell, California is prone to wildfires regardless of whether conditions are dry.... Historically, these drought conditions [over the past two years] are some of the mildest the state has seen in many years. Yet, wildfires still persist. In fact, wildfire activity in 2023 was greater than in 2024. Doesn't that suggest that California needs to get its hands around management of its forest and vegetation today ... rather than focusing on spending massive amounts on non-solutions to climate change that won't be felt until 75 years from now? Are we wrong?"
Energy analyst **Doug Sheridan** *posted these thoughts on social media as California prepares for blackouts due to wildfire concerns.*

"This experiment with mRNA gene therapy during COVID-19 will be shown to be one of the most egregious examples of democide in world history."
In an unprecedented move during its October 22 meeting, Idaho's Southwest District Health board voted 4-3 to pull Covid-19 vaccines from public health clinics in the six counties where it provides services. Celebrating the victory, Dr. **John Tribble**, *the board's only physician, offered this comment to The Defender, a Children's Health Defense network publication.*

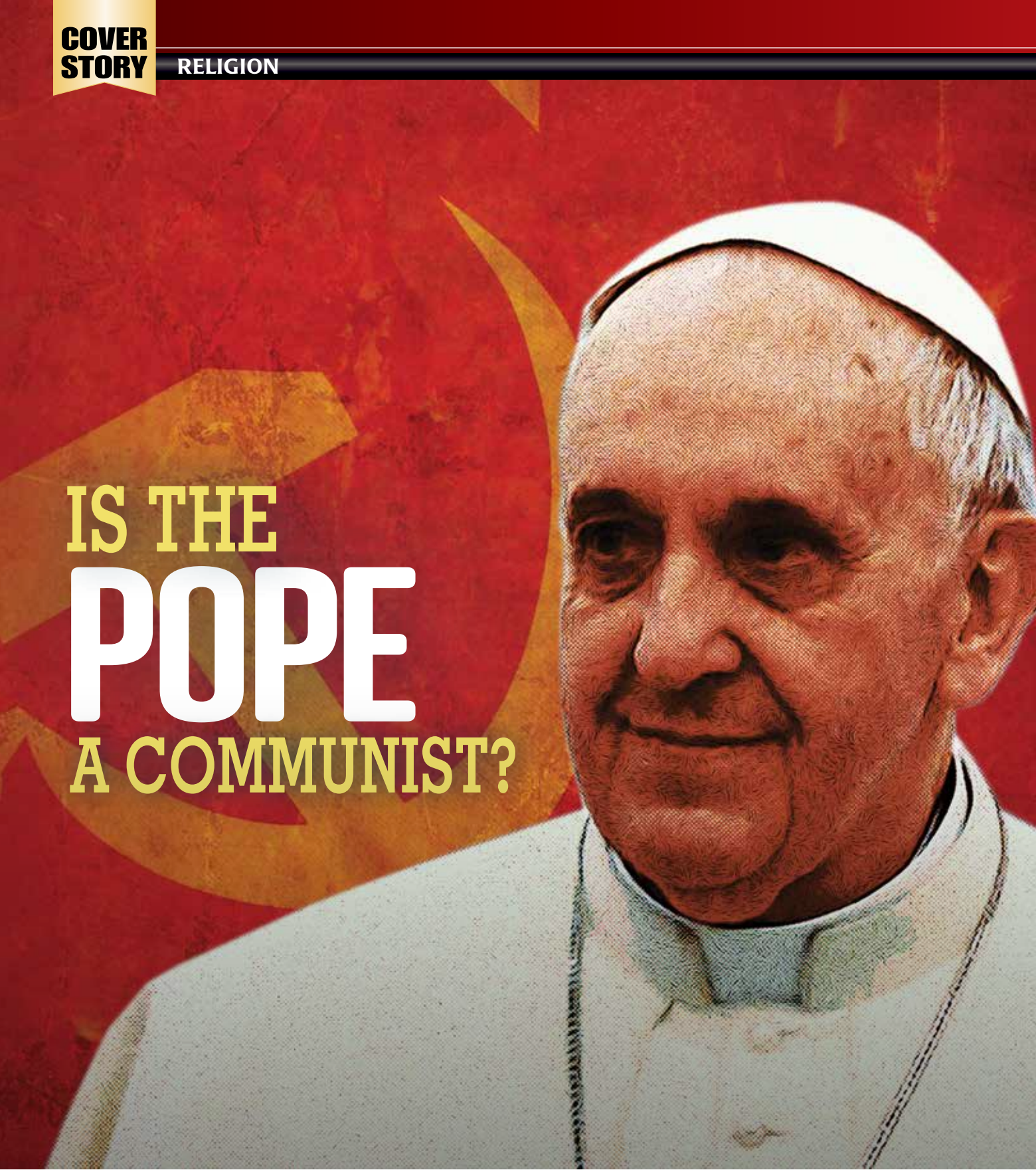
"The government used the new terminology in a way that interwove it throughout the entirety of the rules, so you just can't separate the two."
On November 4, a panel of federal appellate court judges heard arguments from Louisiana's Attorney General **Liz Murrill**, *who argued against enforcing the Biden administration's Title IX rules regarding transgender students. In an interview with the Louisiana Illuminator after the hearing, she accused the administration of substituting the term "gender identity" for "biological sex" and called it a "relentless attack on women and girls."*

"The rapid progress needed to address climate change requires public sector action. The scale of the investment involved and the need for coordinated action across all sectors of the economy mean that only governments are equipped to lead the changes required. Using policy tools, such as taxation, regulation, and subsidies, governments can influence behaviors across entire economies."
Ian Carruthers, *chairman of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), openly admitted the goal of a new draft climate-related disclosure standard for governments and private-sector entities. Developed with the support of the World Bank, the guidelines are intended to standardize "sustainability reporting." IPSASB is taking public comments on the draft until February 28, 2025.*

"The outcome of this election is not what we wanted, not what we fought for.... Earlier today I spoke with President-elect Trump and congratulated him on his victory. I also told him that we will help him and his team with their transition.... Over the 107 days of this campaign, we have been intentional about building community and building coalitions, bringing people together from every walk of life and background.... To the young people who are watching, it is okay to feel sad and disappointed, but please know it's gonna be okay.... On the campaign, I would often say, 'When we fight, we win.' But here's the thing: Sometimes the fight takes a while. That doesn't mean we won't win."
Prompting scorn on social media, **Kamala Harris** *delivered a concession speech that closely mimicked Hillary Clinton's after her 2016 loss to Donald Trump.*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

IS THE POPE A COMMUNIST?



Since his election in the papal conclave of 2013, Pope Francis has embraced communist dictatorships and reversed the Catholic Church's nearly two centuries of stalwart opposition to communism and socialism.

by William F. Jasper

"Is the Pope a communist?" That was the headline of a BBC News story on June 7, 2015. It was prompted by accusations from both Catholic and non-Catholic critics alarmed by Pope Francis' many shocking statements and actions favorable to communism/socialism/Marxism that flatly contradict the Catholic Church's constant teaching on these matters for the better part of two centuries. (See the papal encyclicals listed on page 16.) Concerns about the radical tendencies of the current pontificate began mounting soon after the previously little-known Argentinian Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio ascended to the papal throne as Pope Francis on March 13, 2013. The concerns have continued to build.

Here are a few headlines from the Catholic and secular press that give a flavor of the ongoing kerfuffle over Pope Francis' ideological heterodoxy:

"Is the pope a communist?" — MSNBC

"Really, is Pope Francis ... a communist?" — Catholic Online

"Is the Pope a socialist?" — Catholic News Agency

"Is Pope Francis a Socialist?" — *America* magazine

Similar examples abound. So, how do these media outlets answer this profoundly troubling question? Well, in general, their responses fall into some formula of one part gaslight, one part spin, and one part lie. Since few Catholics (or non-Catholics, for that matter) understand the Marxist-Leninist basis of "liberation theology," the Bergoglian apologists insist that Francis' embrace of this communist/socialist ideology is merely an extension of traditional Catholic social teaching on care for "the poor."

Thus, the BBC reported in the aforementioned article that Pope John Paul II believed liberation theology "had tempted some priests and bishops into quasi-Marxist and even violent ideology, and as Pope he cracked down on some Liberation Theologians. Jorge Bergoglio rejected Marxism — although he cheerfully accepts that he has many Marxist friends — but accepted many of Liberation Theology's principles, espousing what Austen Ivereigh [his friend and authorized biographer] calls 'a nationalist version' of the movement, or a so-called 'Theology of the People.'"

There is gaslighting, spinning, and lying aplenty in the BBC claim above. As we will show in what follows, Jorge Bergoglio has never "rejected Marxism," despite an occasional throw-away quote that his defenders can pull out of a hat, which is about as credible as a statement from Stalin condemning mass murder.

Let us explain. The proximate cause for the BBC headline in 2015 that we featured at the top of this article was Pope Francis' central role in negotiating the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Communist Cuba and the United States. That relationship had been ruptured in 1961 when Fidel Castro's Soviet-sponsored regime became increasingly totalitarian and ever-more hostile toward the United States. But Francis gleefully played the friendly interlocutor between Raúl Castro (who had succeeded his brother, Fidel) and then-President Barack Obama to end U.S. sanctions and restore U.S.-Cuba relations.

The BBC story reported that Castro was so happy with Francis' diplomatic work on Havana's behalf that he even considered going back to praying and attending church:

> On his way back from the Victory Day Parade in Moscow last month, the Cuban leader Raúl Castro stopped off in Rome to thank Pope Francis for his role in Cuba's rapprochement with the United States. "If the Pope continues this way," Castro said afterwards, "I will go back to praying and go back to the church — I am not joking."

It has been nearly a decade since that Francis-Castro-Obama gambit took place, but there is no evidence that Raúl Castro (or his successor, Miguel Díaz-Canel) has become a prayer warrior and churchgoer. In fact, just the opposite. According to the latest report (September 2024) from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the communist regime in Havana is as repressive as ever. It states:

> Throughout 2024, religious freedom conditions in Cuba have remained extremely poor. Cuba is a one-party system under the ruling Cuban Communist Party, with no independent judiciary. The state uses its repressive legal framework to tightly control

AP Images

Comrade Castro: Pope Francis warmly greets Cuba's communist dictator Raúl Castro (brother of and successor to Fidel) in Santiago, Cuba, in 2015. He continues his cordial support despite Cuba's persecution of Christians and unrelenting hemispheric subversion.

William F. Jasper, a senior editor of The New American*, is a Roman Catholic who attends the Traditional Latin Mass that is under attack by Joe Biden's DOJ-FBI — and Pope Francis.*

religious institutions and criminalize religious activities and expressions that the government perceives to be out of step with its ideology. In addition, the Cuban government persecutes worshipers through surveillance, harassment and threats, fines, and ill treatment of religious prisoners of conscience.

Cuba's ongoing persecution, imprisonment, and torture of Christian believers (Catholic and Protestant) and political dissidents have not dampened Francis' affection for the Havana regime. Cuba's communist media outlets have repeatedly used Francis' meetings and photo ops with Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, and Miguel Díaz-Canel (in Rome and Havana) as propaganda to falsely portray the island hellhole as a heavenly citadel of freedom and human rights.

Unfortunately, Francis' romance with the Cuban regime is not a one-off love affair. As we will see below, he has cozied up to the most oppressive anti-Christian communist regimes, with Xi Jinping's China being the most spectacular, but far from only, example. In embracing the communist gangsters, he has reversed the policies of his predecessors and not only failed to extract any relief for those suffering under tyrants, but also turned a deaf ear to the appeals of their victims. Whether it is Hong Kong, mainland China, Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, or Venezuela, Francis has shown he can be depended on to side with the communist dictators and to offer only bland criticisms when forced to by worldwide outrage.

Venezuela's Maduro

Everyone knows that "President" Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela is a brutal communist dictator who has turned the oil-rich country, once among the most prosperous in Latin America, into a sinkhole of poverty and corruption. Under his watch, the Venezuelan bolivar collapsed into a zombie currency, with world record-shattering hyperinflation of *10 million percent* (according to the International Monetary Fund, or *53 million percent* according to the Central Bank of Venezuela). Handpicked by the country's previous communist dictator, Hugo Chávez, Maduro has continued Chávez's Castro-style rule. As a result, more than seven million Venezuelans — 20 percent of the population — have fled the country, with most deciding to come to the United States. Virtually everyone, including (surprisingly) many leftist politicians and Marxist regimes, has condemned Maduro and his phony "elections" and violence against political opponents.

Maduro's record of oppression is so flagrant that it has been denounced even by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), French President Emmanuel Macron, Amnesty International, the Carter Center, the Organization of American States, the UN Human Rights Council's investigative team, the European Union, and Human Rights Watch.

On the other hand, who has *supported* Maduro during his 11-year reign of terror? Oh, the usual suspects: China, Cuba, Nicaragua, Russia, Iran, South Africa, Turkey — and Pope Francis. During Maduro's state visit to the Vatican in 2016, Pope Francis scandalously provided him with a propaganda photo op, bestowing a papal blessing on the forehead of the pious-looking dictator who claims he is instituting "Christian socialism." Francis' apologists will point to several statements critical of Maduro's regime since the infamous blessing, but the fact remains that they have been ambiguous, toothless comments.

The "bothsidesism" that is so typical of Francis' pronouncements was plainly obvious in his April 30, 2017 appeal "to the government and all the members of Venezuelan society to avoid any further forms of violence," as if the peaceful protesters murdered by Maduro's thugs were equally culpable for the regime's violence. However, even that milquetoast papal response came only after he had received a global outpouring of criticism for his silence on the matter. And it was followed by seven more years of silence and "both sides" comments from Francis, despite desperate pleas from Venezuela's cardinals, bishops, priests, and citizens, and much of the world community.

On August 1, 2024, after Maduro claimed a third term following another blatantly fraudulent election, Pope Francis made "a heartfelt appeal to all parties to seek the truth, to exercise restraint, to avoid any kind of violence, to settle disputes through dialogue."

"That kind of 'all parties' Vatican re-

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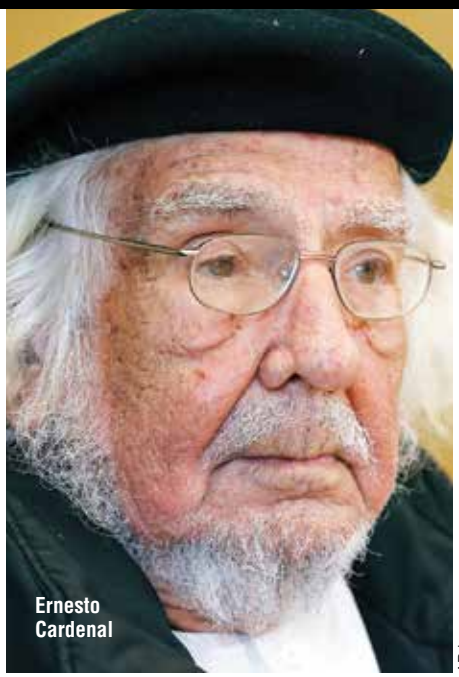
Comrade Maduro: Nicolás Maduro, communist dictator of Venezuela's narco-terrorist state, has used his cozy photo ops with Pope Francis and the pope's "both sides" statements to undermine widespread opposition to his rule from the Venezuelan Church hierarchy and citizenry.



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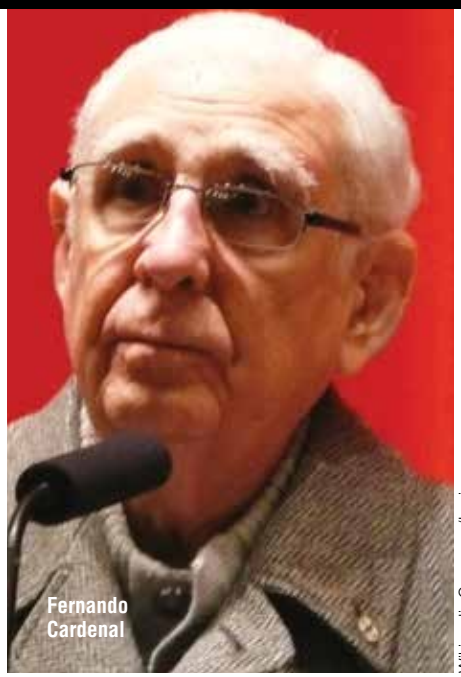

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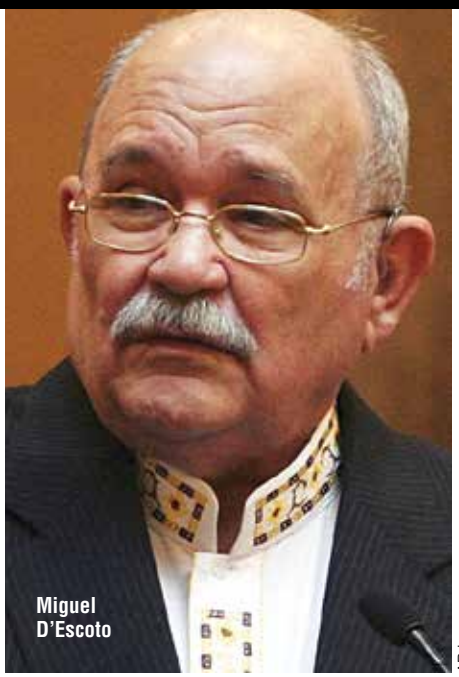


AP Images

sponse, which has marked the Holy Father's Venezuela policy for more than a decade, causes deep upset in Venezuela," wrote Father Raymond J. de Souza at the *National Catholic Register*. "It is not the opposition that is causing violence, and dialogue with a repressive regime looks to many like appeasement."

"The Vatican has repeatedly chosen not to reinforce, or even echo, the strong statements of the Venezuelan bishops," de Souza continued. "Indeed, at many times Maduro himself has taunted the Venezuelan bishops that they should be more like Pope Francis and ease off their criticism." To top it all off, on August 14 Francis sent Archbishop Alberto Ortega Martín to present his papers as the Vatican's new diplomatic envoy to the Maduro regime. Both Maduro and the opposition read this as an endorsement of the dictatorship by the Holy See, in contrast to the limp rhetorical criticism issued by the pope.

"Leftward Ho!" Always

It's not as if Jorge Bergoglio is shy about using his papal bully pulpit to attack political leaders — if they are conservative, that is. He has issued blistering fulminations aimed at Donald Trump, Argentina's Javier Milei, Italy's Giorgia Meloni, Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, France's Marine Le Pen, Hungary's Viktor Orbán, and Poland's Andrzej Duda. He typically doesn't mention them by name, but makes clear by his denunciations that he is targeting opponents of his radical stances on mass migration, open borders, populism, nationalism, climate change, LGBTQ "rights," "gender equality," Covid vaccine mandates, and other "social justice" pet issues.

So, claims by Francis, the Vatican press office, and the Bergoglian fan club that the pope avoids politics, attempts to always maintain neutrality between opposing sides, and "is neither right nor left" are laughable. Consider, for instance, his treatment of Nicaragua's communist regime, which is similar to his treatment of the Maduro regime mentioned above. For years, Nicaraguans and human-rights activists worldwide criticized the Holy See's silence regarding the terror, torture, and repression under Daniel Ortega's Sandinista dictatorship. In January 2019, 20 former heads of state and government from Latin America wrote a letter to Pope Francis criticizing the "both sides" wording of his Christmas blessing for Nicaragua, which called for Nicaraguans to "see themselves once more as brothers and sisters, so that divisions and discord will not prevail." Well, that's a really strong rebuke to tyranny, no? The letter rightly noted that the papal call for harmony "can be understood by the victimized nations that they should come to agreement with their victimizers."

In 2022, Francis expressed "concern and sorrow" over the escalating Sandinista persecution and hoped that, "through open and sincere dialogue, the basis for a respectful and peaceful coexistence can still be found." Finally, on December 2, 2024, Pope Francis sent a pastoral letter to the "pilgrim People of God in Nicaragua," assuring them of his prayers and encouraging them to trust in God and persevere. As usual, his faux consolation was liberally sprinkled with "God talk," "Jesus talk," and "Mary talk." However, there was no fiery denunciation of the persecutors, who claim to be Catholic and whom, therefore, he has a paternal, pastoral duty to sternly correct. But no, his papal fire-and-brimstone artillery must be reserved for climate change "deniers," defenders of national sovereignty, and Catholics who attend the Traditional Latin Mass!

Comrades all: Sandinista "revolutionary priests" (from left) Ernesto Cardenal, Fernando Cardenal, and Miguel D'Escoto put a false Christian face on the communist Nicaraguan regime of Daniel Ortega, which continues to oppress the country and persecute the Church. Pope Francis "rehabilitated" these unrepentant revolutionaries.

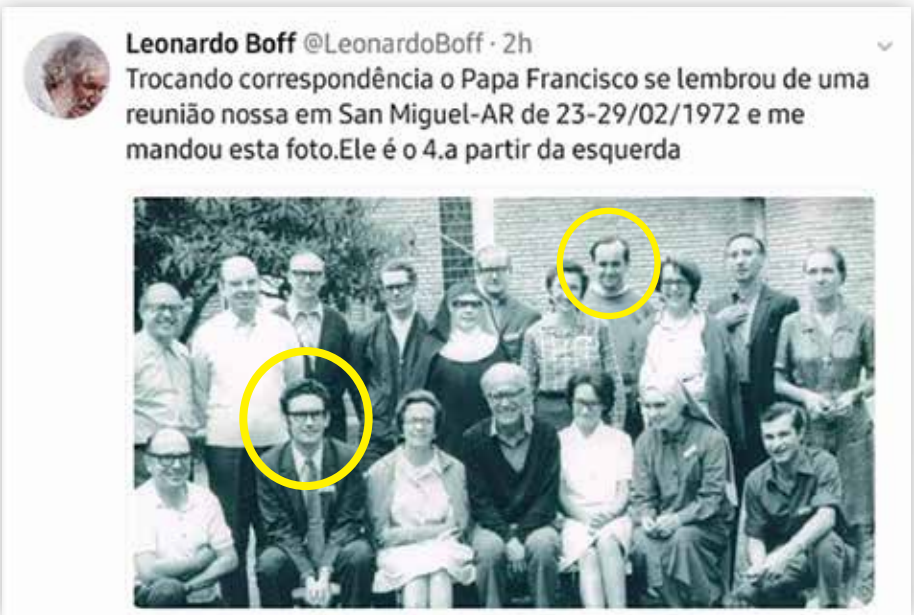
"Liberation" Indoctrination

Pope Francis' equivocation regarding the communist regimes in Cuba, Nicaragua, Brazil, and Venezuela is the result of his lifelong marination in the toxic juices of Marxist-Leninist "liberation theology." This alien ideology disguised as a Christian concern for the poor and oppressed first came

into view for most Americans in the 1970s and '80s with the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. The Sandinista junta included members of the Catholic clergy, including high-profile members such as Father Ernesto Cardenal, Father Fernando Cardenal, Father Miguel D'Escoto, and Father Edgard Parrales. All four of the self-proclaimed "revolutionary priests" were suspended by Pope John Paul II in 1985 for refusing to leave the communist government. Pope Francis lifted the suspension on D'Escoto (then 81) in 2014 and on Ernesto Cardenal (then 94) in 2019, although neither repented of their communist beliefs. Immediately upon being restored to his priestly faculties by Francis, D'Escoto (a recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize) defiantly proclaimed that God "chose the greatest Latin-American of all time: Fidel Castro…. It is through Fidel Castro that the Holy Spirit sends us the message." However, since, in both cases, the aged priests were close to death, Francis' actions might be seen as works of mercy. Not so for his many other promotions for communism, socialism, and liberation theology. Here are but a few out of numerous disturbing examples:

• *World Meeting of Popular Movements (WMPM)* — An ongoing effort initiated in Rome by Francis in 2014, the WMPM brings together radical nongovernmental organizations to implement the Bergoglian socio-politico agenda. An idea of where this movement is going comes from João Pedro Stédile, a leader of the Brazilian Landless Rural Workers' Movement, who, at the 2014 Rome confab, called for the canonization of "Saint" Antonio Gramsci, the Italian communist theoretician whose "Prison Notebooks" have provided the game plan for the culture war that is turning society upside down.

• *Zapatista "Red Bishop" Samuel Ruiz* — In 2016, during his visit to Mexico, Francis made a pilgrimage to the grave of Bishop Ruiz, spiritual leader of the Zapatista (EZLN) guerrillas of Chiapas. Online Catholic newspaper Crux reported that "Pope Francis is connecting with a kindred spirit, a famed Mexican pastor and liberation theology pioneer." According to the Crux article, "Ruiz was a peacemaker," and "In visiting the tomb of Ruiz, Francis is validating his witness and encouraging others to emulate him." However, according to the late Professor Ronald Hilton (Stanford University and World Association of International Studies), a Latin American specialist, Bishop Ruiz was actually the secretive real leader of the EZLN who went by the pseudonym of Comandante Marcos.


Leonardo Boff @LeonardoBoff · 2h
Trocando correspondência o Papa Francisco se lembrou de uma reunião nossa em San Miguel-AR de 23-29/02/1972 e me mandou esta foto.Ele é o 4.a partir da esquerda

x.com/LeonardoBoff

Liberation? Leonardo Boff, an ex-Catholic priest, longtime pal of Pope Francis, and leading guru of "liberation theology," tweeted a 1972 photo of himself (circled in front row) and Bergoglio (circled in back row) at a liberation-theology gathering in Argentina.

• *"Scalfarigate"* — Eugenio Scalfari died in 2022 at the age of 98. An atheist, former fascist, and lifelong radical socialist, he worked closely with Italian Communist Party leaders and was a founder and national vice secretary of the Radical Party. He was one of Italy's most famous journalists. He achieved his greatest notoriety late in life as a pal of Francis, whom he frequently interviewed. The Scalfari-Bergoglio interviews always guaranteed scandal, with the journalist claiming that the pope had spouted some heretical new doctrine: Jesus was a sinner; Jesus was not God; Jesus did not bodily resurrect; atheists can go to heaven; hell does not exist, etc. After each Scalfari release, the Vatican press office would scramble to claim that "No, no, no, that's not what the pope said." But Francis continued rewarding Scalfari with exclusive interviews as if he relished the confusion he was causing.

• *Red Archbishop Helder Camara* — Brazilian Archbishop Helder Camara (1909-1999), known worldwide as the "Red Archbishop," was a subversive influence inside the Catholic Church for much of the 20th century. In the 1930s and '40s, Father Camara was an official of the rabidly pro-Nazi (i.e., National Socialist) Ação Integralista Brasileira. By the 1960s he had transferred his allegiance to the *international* socialists, becoming an ardent advocate for Nikita Khrushchev's Soviet Union, Castro's Cuba, and Mao Zedong's China. He was founder and first general secretary of the Brazilian Bishops Conference. In 1965, near the close of the Second Vatican Council, he led a group of bishops to a secret meeting in the Domatilla Catacombs, where they signed a 13-point manifesto known as the Pact of the Catacombs. The signers of the pact, which was larded with camouflage language about charity and justice, pledged their lives to simplicity, poverty, and serving the poor. The document went viral and served as a launchpad for the "Christian-Marxist" fraud known as liberation theology. Camara claimed not to be a Marxist, but his life's work and words belie that claim. He played a central role at the 1968 Episcopal Conference of Latin America in Medellin, Colombia, that infamously brought liberation theology to the fore and inaugurated the Ecclesial Base Communities through-

Newscom

Comrade Morales: The shocking photo of Bolivia's communist dictator Evo Morales presenting Pope Francis with a hammer-and-sickle crucifix in 2015 has been used globally to signal papal support for the world revolution.

out Latin America. (1968 was the year of communist-led riots in cities and on campuses worldwide.) Curiously, this notorious "Red Archbishop" was also a close associate of Klaus Schwab, leader of the billionaire club known as the World Economic Forum, which is a leading vehicle for communist-globalist convergence. In 2015, Pope Francis opened the canonization process for proclaiming Camara a saint.

• *Leonardo Boff* — A Brazilian ex-Catholic priest of the Franciscan order, Boff became a leading figure of liberation theology in the 1960s and '70s. After being silenced by Rome in the 1980s for his Marxist writings and speeches, he left the priesthood and continues to cohabit with a woman who is not his wife. The 86-year-old radical, now a rabid eco-Leninist, was a co-author, along with former Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev and globalist Steven Rockefeller, of the UN Earth Charter. Boff has become a key advisor to Pope Francis on climate and environmental issues and is widely credited as a major pagan-pantheist influence on Pope Francis' Amazon Synod and his 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. The Boff-Bergoglio comradeship goes back a long way. In 2019, Boff posted a photo on his Twitter feed that had been sent to him by Pope Francis showing the two of them in a group picture in Argentina in 1972. In a 2016 interview with the German newspaper *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*, Boff said: "Francis is one of us. He has turned Liberation Theology into a common property of the Church. And he has widened it."

Frei Betto, Paulo Freire — In the constellation of liberation theology's big stars, Frei Betto and Paulo Freire, both Brazilians, are considered supernovas. Francis is closely tied to both of them and has gone out of his way to promote them. Like Boff, Camara, and Ruiz, they deny being communists, but their lives disprove their denials. Frei Betto, a Dominican friar, helped found the communist-terrorist São Paulo Forum, together with Fidel Castro and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Betto gained fame with his series of personal interviews with Fidel, which he made into a book, *Fidel and Religion*, that has become sacred scripture for liberation theologists. Paulo Freire's book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed,* a Marxist classic, had a profound influence on Bergoglio, who made a point of visiting Freire's widow and co-author. Pope Francis sent congratulatory greetings to Freire on the 90th birthday of the man known as "the Father of Liberation Theology," and in a funeral eulogy called him "a great man of the Church."

KGB "Liberation" — In 2015, General Ion Mihai Pacepa, the former chief of Communist Romania's secret police (DGSP), revealed in an interview with Catholic News Agency that liberation theology had been created by the KGB, which his DGSP served under. Liberation theology, he said, "was born in the KGB, and it had a KGB-invented name" to match the other "liberation" organizations and movements created and backed by the Soviets. It was launched in 1960, Pacepa said, as a "super-secret 'Party-State Dezinformatsiya Program' approved by Aleksandr Shelepin, the chairman of the KGB…. This program demanded that the KGB take secret control of the World Council of Churches (WCC), based in Geneva, Switzerland, and use it as cover for converting Liberation Theology into a South American revolutionary tool. The WCC was the largest international ecumenical organization after the Vatican, representing some 550 million Christians of various denominations throughout 120 countries." Fidel Castro would be the KGB's principal agent. General Pacepa's thesis is corroborated by facts and liberation-theology literature, such as *Christian-Marxist Unity* by Raimundo Garcia Franco. Published in 1989 by the Marxist-Leninist Circus Publications, Inc., *Christian-Marxist Unity* provides important details about Cuban-sponsored "Christian" conferences and extensive quotes from the Cuban Communist Party's program for subverting the Christian Gospel for communist ends.

Lula da Silva, Dilma Rousseff — Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the current president of Brazil, has been a close comrade of Fidel Castro and his communist successors for more than four decades. Together with Castro in 1990, he launched the São Paulo Forum of Latin American socialist/communist parties (including his Workers Party) and terrorist organizations. His first presidency (2003-2011) took Brazil on a disastrous course of "revolutionary parliamentarianism," following the communist model of Czechoslovakia in 1948. Dilma Rousseff, a member of Lula's Workers Party, served as his energy secretary before rising to the presidency

POPES AGAINST COLLECTIVISM

For more than a century and a half before Pope Francis, Catholic popes have condemned the evils of socialism and communism. Here are some examples of such condemnation.

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1846 — Pope Pius IX, Encyclical *Qui Pluribus*

"This is the aim too of the prevalent but wrong method of teaching, especially in the philosophical disciplines, a method which deceives and corrupts incautious youth in a wretched manner and gives it as drink the poison of the serpent in the goblet of Babylon. To this goal also tends the unspeakable doctrine of Communism, as it is called, a doctrine most opposed to the very natural law. For if this doctrine were accepted, the complete destruction of everyone's laws, government, property, and even of human society itself would follow."

1849 — Pope Pius IX, Encyclical *Nostis et Nobiscum*

"You are aware indeed, that the goal of this most iniquitous plot is to drive people to overthrow the entire order of human affairs and to draw them over to the wicked theories of this *Socialism* and *Communism*, by confusing them with perverted teachings…. As regards this teaching and these theories, it is now generally known that the special goal of their proponents is to introduce to the people the pernicious fictions of *Socialism* and *Communism* by misapplying the terms 'liberty' and 'equality.' The final goal shared by these teachings, whether of *Communism* or *Socialism*, even if approached differently, is to excite by continuous disturbances workers and others, especially those of the lower class, whom they have deceived by their lies and deluded by the promise of a happier condition. They are preparing them for plundering, stealing, and usurping first the Church's and then everyone's property. After this they will profane all law, human and divine, to destroy divine worship and to subvert the entire ordering of civil societies."

1878 — Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical *Quod Apostolici Muneris*

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"We speak of that sect of men who, under various and almost barbarous names, are called socialists, communists, or nihilists, and who, spread over all the world, and bound together by the closest ties in a wicked confederacy, no longer seek the shelter of secret meetings, but, openly and boldly marching forth in the light of day, strive to bring to a head what they have long been planning — the overthrow of all civil society whatsoever."

1891 — Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*

"To remedy these wrongs the socialists, working on the poor man's envy of the rich, are striving to do away with private property, and contend that individual possessions should become the common property of all, to be administered by the State or by municipal bodies…. Socialists, therefore, by endeavoring to transfer the possessions of individuals to the community at large, strike at the interests of every wage-earner, since they would deprive him of the liberty of disposing of his wages, and thereby of all hope and possibility of increasing his resources and of bettering his condition in life."

1931 — Pope Pius XI, Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*

"No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist."

1937 — Pope Pius XI, Encyclical *Divini Redemptoris*

"Since Communism is intrinsically evil, whoever wants to save Christianity and civilization from destruction must refrain from aiding it in the prosecution of any project whatever."

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1949 — Pope Pius XII, Decree Against Communism

"Communism is materialistic and anti-Christian; the communist leaders, although at times they argue in words that they are not against Religion, in fact both in doctrine and in actions they prove hostile to God, to true Religion and to the Church of Christ…. Christians who profess materialistic and anti-Christian communist doctrine, and above all those who defend and propagate it, incur *ipso facto* in the excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See, as apostates of the Catholic faith."

herself (2011-2016). A lifelong ultra-leftist, she was a member of several underground Marxist-Leninist terrorist groups in the 1960s and '70s that engaged in kidnappings, bank robberies, and murder. She was captured, convicted, and served six years in prison for her criminal activities. Like many other terrorists of that era, she decided to continue the revolution through parliamentary means. Lula and Rousseff have both enjoyed the benedictions of Pope Francis.

Communist China — Pope Francis' secret 2018 Sino-Vatican agreement is a monstrous betrayal for which there is no parallel in the 2,000-year history of the Church. Although details of the pact remain hidden, what is known is that Francis granted the Chinese Communist Party authority over the appointment of bishops. Not surprisingly, the CCP-appointed bishops toe the communist line. Supposedly there was to be a quid pro quo in which Catholics in China would have greater freedom of worship and imprisoned prelates would be released. Instead, we have seen harsher persecution. And 10 heroic bishops (whom we know of) remain incarcerated. Nevertheless, despite appeals from Cardinal Joseph Zen, many Catholic faithful, and human-rights advocates around the world, on October 22, 2024, Francis *renewed* the agreement.

Amazingly, we have only scratched the surface. There is so much more. Prior to Bergoglio, could it have been imagined that a pope would joyfully accept a crucifix explicitly shaped like a communist hammer and sickle — a blasphemous desecration of the Savior's cross and a glorification of the satanic system that has persecuted and murdered millions of Christians — as Francis did when it was presented to him by Bolivia's communist dictator Evo Morales in 2015? And except under a Bergoglian papacy, would the far-left Jesuit magazine *America* have dared to approvingly splash a photo of that Morales-Francis moment atop an equally blasphemous article titled "The Catholic Case for Communism"? What happened to the Catholic Church?

Library of Congress

"Only the Catholic Church": Soviet spy and top communist defector Whittaker Chambers saw the Catholic Church as the only steadfast opponent of communism — but recognized that even the Church was infiltrated.

Infiltration and Control

In 1948, Americans were transfixed by the testimony of two former high-level communists: Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley. In addition to being functionaries in the Communist Party USA, both individuals were spies and agents of influence for the Soviet Union, which was then openly menacing all of Europe and Asia. Chambers had defected a decade earlier, and had repeatedly attempted to warn America that Stalin's agents had thoroughly penetrated our federal bureaucracy and many of our institutions. His most high-profile public appearance came in his testimony exposing Alger Hiss, a top advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1952, Chambers' acclaimed memoir *Witness* became a bestseller. Chambers, however, was pessimistic that the spiritually enervated West, the former Christendom, could summon the will and moral courage to stand against the revolutionary communist onslaught.

"There is only one fully logical conservative position in the West — that of the Catholic Church," he wrote in an April 4, 1954 letter to William F. Buckley. Chambers, who was not a Catholic, nevertheless believed that "the Church is the only true counterrevolutionary force ... because it contains the revolution wherever the revolution manifests that wound." He noted that Burkean conservatism and High Anglicanism were merely "chips, tossed on the blackly running stream, now a torrent." "Only the Catholic Church has dared to look steadfastly at that torrent, and measure what it costs a man's soul to make its passage, not in terms of deflecting hope, but in terms of what cruelly is," he continued. "But the Church is, by no means, at one on this."

What did Whittaker Chambers mean by that last sentence? The deeply philosophical former communist undoubtedly knew what fellow defectors from communism knew: Like other institutions, the Catholic Church had been infiltrated by its sworn enemies. Former top communists such as Manning Johnson, Benjamin Gitlow, Herbert Philbrick, and Louis Budenz testified concerning their knowledge of extensive communist infiltration of Protestant denominations. Dr. Bella Dodd, another top communist defector and an important witness in congressional hearings during the 1950s, would later tell Drs. Dietrich and Alice von Hildebrand of her role in helping place "over a thousand communist men in Catholic seminaries." She also claimed she had dealt with no fewer than four cardinals within the Vatican "who were working for us," meaning working with the Kremlin-directed communist conspiracy. This important history is detailed in the 2022 bestseller *The Devil and Bella Dodd* by Dr. Mary Nicholas and Professor Paul Kengor.

It was the Catholic Church's stalwart stand against the communist-atheist-materialist "god that failed" that led disillusioned communists such as Dodd, Budenz, Hamish Fraser, Eugene Genovese, Douglas Hyde, Bentley, and Malcolm Muggeridge to seek Jesus Christ in the Catholic faith. By the time Chambers, Bentley, Dodd, and their confreres began warning about the mortal danger from communism, Catholic popes had already been sounding the alarm for more than a century.

In his encyclical *Qui Pluribus* of 1846 (two years before Marx and Engels wrote *The Communist Manifesto*), Pope Pius IX condemned "the unspeakable doctrine of Communism" as being "most opposed to the very natural law." If put into practice, he warned, it would bring about "the complete destruction" of human society. This is precisely what has happened everywhere the communist revolution has taken hold. Pope Leo XIII, writing in 1878 (*Quod Apostolici Muneris*), called communism and socialism "the deadly plague that is creeping into the very fibres of human society and leading it on to the verge of destruction."

Pope Pius XI, in his 1937 encyclical *Divini Redemptoris*, declared that "Since Communism is intrinsically evil, whoever wants to save Christianity and civilization from destruction must refrain from aiding it in the prosecution of any project whatever." A few years earlier, in 1931 (*Quadragesimo Anno*), the same pope had likewise proscribed socialism, proclaiming that "No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist."

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"Intrinsically evil": Pope Pius XI, in his 1931 encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, declared that "No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist."

These and many additional papal condemnations of communism and socialism (see page 16) would seem to leave little room for Pope Francis' full-on embrace of communism/socialism. Evo Morales says the gospel of Francis "is socialism." "I feel like now I have a Pope," he declared. Self-proclaimed socialist and longtime Soviet apologist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has stated that "many of the issues which the Pope tackles are similar to mine." He made that pregnant comment during his 2016 visit to Rome, where he had been invited to address the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, which Francis has stacked with anti-Catholic "progressives." Meanwhile, *People's World* (the official newspaper of the Communist Party USA) runs headlines such as, "Welcome Pope Francis, campaigner against corporate greed!" and Pope Francis makes comments such as, "If anything, it is the communists who think like Christians." How to explain such a shocking turnabout in a 2,000-year-old institution?

Is the Pope Catholic?

"Is the pope Catholic?" That used to be a snarky retort to an obviously dumb question. Kind of like, "Is a 10-pound robin fat?" While we might not be surrounded by morbidly obese robins, the papal throne does seem to be occupied by an individual who fits the description of an apostate socialist/communist. How has this come about? The answer to that burning question would require much more space than is available here. However, it is important to note that the subversion we are now witnessing in the Bergoglian papacy was made possible by more than a century of patient infiltration. An important part of that story is told in the accompanying article (facing page) by the late John F. McManus, first published here in 1985. For a more detailed historical picture of the devilish permeation that we are now witnessing, there is perhaps no better source than Dr. Taylor Marshall's 2019 exposé *Infiltration: The Plot to Destroy the Church From Within*, which we highly recommend.

In January 2017, a group of prominent Catholic lay leaders called upon the newly inaugurated President Donald J. Trump to initiate an investigation into WikiLeaks revelations pointing to evidence that Deep State billionaire George Soros, President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden, and Obama/Clinton advisor John Podesta had conspired to overthrow the conservative Pope Benedict XVI and replace him with a radical, Jorge Bergoglio. Were American intelligence agencies used to coerce and blackmail "regime change" in the Roman Catholic Church? Is this a key part of the Deep State's plan to create a Deep Church? It certainly looks that way, as we have reported here in the past. Americans should again call upon President Trump to investigate and expose this diabolic scheme. On the spiritual level, faithful Catholic prelates, such as Cardinal Raymond Burke, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, Bishop Joseph Strickland, Bishop Athanasius Schneider, and others, are calling on Catholics to increase their prayers, sacrifices, and fasting for the Church and Pope Francis. ■

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SECRET AGREEMENT
THAT NEUTRALIZED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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The Catholic Church had already muted its anti-Communist voice when this essay was first published in 1985. Since then, that voice has been not only neutralized, but reversed.

This article by the late John F. McManus, published by The New American *in December 1985, provides important historical information that is essential for understanding the alarming pontificate of Pope Francis and the current crisis in the Catholic Church. McManus served as managing editor and publisher of* The New American*, as well as president and public relations director of The John Birch Society. A graduate of Holy Cross College and a U.S. Marine Corps officer, he was a student of Catholic Church affairs for many years.*

by John F. McManus

Catholic bishops from throughout the world are in Rome attending a synod convened at the request of Pope John Paul II. As announced by the Pope earlier this year, the purpose of this gathering of Church officials is to examine the condition of the Church since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Liberal Catholics, who favor most of the remarkable changes in Church practices that flowed from the Council and its aftermath, greatly fear that the Pope intends to revert to past attitudes and practices. Conservative Catholics, on the other hand, want to return to much of what characterized the pre-conciliar Church, but they worry that the synod will unleash even more changes.

The mere announcement of that synod, therefore, stimulated a flood of suggested topics for its agenda from all quarters. High Church officials have engaged in intensive planning for the unusual event, but little of an official nature has been said about what will be discussed. The Pope himself has remained silent, thereby fueling speculation — and apprehension — about what he has in mind.

One does not have to be a Catholic to know that the Church has undergone some momentous changes in the past two decades. It is not the purpose of this treatise to critique what bothers the conservatives, or what appeals to the liberals, or vice versa. Rather, this article will dwell on only one topic — something that very few of today's Catholics seem to feel is important.

It is our contention that the West in general, the United States specifically, and the Catholic Church in particular all suffer from a paralysis of will regarding Communism. Red power continues to grow and every alternative to it is in retreat. In the case of the Church, there happens to be a shocking reason for the foundering. It is a little-known arrangement between Moscow and the Vatican that ought to be a top item for discussion at the synod. But the arrangement — a quietly negotiated agreement — has not come to the attention of most bishops,

AP Images

Deadly foe: U.S. Marines board Navy transports in San Diego, California, on July 13, 1950, headed for the Korean War, which began three weeks prior with the invasion of South Korea by troops from Communist North Korea.

or most of the faithful Catholic laity. We mean to publicize this scandalous pact in hopes that doing so might lead to a rebirth of the Church's historic — and much needed — opposition to Communism.

A Look Backward

We have already claimed that the West, the United States, and even the Catholic Church suffer from a paralysis before Communist power. Without dwelling on the West because so much of its attitude can be closely identified with that of this country, here is a short synopsis of the problem.

The first obvious indicator of America's affliction was the Korean War. The United States, as the undisputed leader of the anti-Communist West, had allowed itself to be bogged down in that undeclared, no-win war in complete violation of both our own laws and the sacred trust that our fighting men relied upon when they were sent into battle.

In its early stages, despite any clear-cut call for victory, the war had been won as a result of the genius of General Douglas MacArthur and the ability of the forces under his command. But an unseen hand that makes certain there is no significant victory over Communism managed to remove MacArthur from his command, thereby "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory." Communists throughout the world were immediately emboldened.

Then, before the decade of the 1950s wound to a close, a near mountain of official and irrefutable evidence about the Communist penetration of the U.S. government had been gathered — and published. Little was done to set things right, however. Our government's paralysis, far from being cured, had spread elsewhere, noticeably infecting our schools, many of our churches, the mass media and virtually all areas of our culture.

There were Americans, of course, who took note of the spreading malaise and tried to arrest it. Most were ridiculed and isolated. Elsewhere in the shrinking free world, anti-Communists watched in disbelief as U.S. officials extended the hand of friendship and aid first to Communist Yugoslavia, and then to the USSR itself. Students of world affairs were horrified to learn the details of America's betrayal of the Hungarians who revolted in 1956 against their Communist masters, and of powerful U.S. support for the Algerian Communists and Cuban revolutionaries as the decade of the 1950s came to a close.

A serious opponent of Communism could easily have despaired as that decade ended — but for the existence of one foe of Red terror that no one believed would ever falter in the fight against this deadly atheistic force. That foe — with its hundreds of millions of adherents throughout the world, with its schools, organizations, pulpits, press and enviable discipline — was the Catholic Church. You did not have to be a Catholic to derive comfort from the strength of Catholicism as an opponent of Communism. There were, in fact, many who professed another religion while they thanked God for Catholicism's uncompromising anti-Communist stance.

The Church's attitude had been clearly stated in 1937 by Pope Pius XI, who forbade collaboration with Communism "in any undertaking whatsoever." It was reinforced during the reign of Pope Pius XII (1939-1958), especially through his strict prohibition against contact with Communist leaders. He rightly insisted that there

be no dignity supplied to them, and that there be no negotiations or recognition of the kind reserved for legitimate national leaders.

The numerous reports of typical Communist savagery meted out to Catholic prelates — to Stepinac in Yugoslavia, Mindszenty in Hungary, Walsh in Red China, and so many more — served only to stiffen the Church and its admirers against the propaganda, subversion and terror that Communism was spreading everywhere.

But the stiffening began to weaken, and the militant anti-Communism of the Church wilted, slowly at first, then perceptibly, and now — except for occasional demonstrations by the Catholic people in nations such as Poland — there is virtually no opposition from the Catholic hierarchy. Even worse, it can now be shown that in 1962, Vatican authorities formally pledged to Soviet counterparts that the Church would henceforth refrain from condemnation of Communism. This pledge has been honored without exception, as evidenced in part by the total absence in Vatican II's documents of any mention of Communism. The Catholic Church had been reduced from a militant foe of Communism to a condition of neutrality, and in some instances lately — as a growing number of Marxist liberation theologians, pacifists, socialists and apologists for Communism dominate its ranks — to a virtual collaborator.

It was with the death of Pope Pius XII in 1958 that a new attitude began to take hold in the Church. The first evidence of change occured in 1959 when Pope John XXIII announced his intention to "throw open the windows" of the Church, ostensibly to let some fresh air enliven its ancient practices and elderly leaders. He called for a convening of a general council, an even more extraordinary assemblage of the world's Catholic bishops than the current synod. There had been only 20 general councils in the Church's 2,000-year history, the most recent at that time having been Vatican I in 1870.

As the planning for the Council began, the first steps were taken to neutralize the Church's historic opposition to Communism as well. It was in New Delhi, India in November 1961 that Patriarch Nikodim of the Russian Orthodox Church laid down the Kremlin's conditions that had to be accepted before the church over which he presided would send any observers to the Council. It was no secret that Nikodim, known to be associated with the KGB, held his post as the leader of the Russian church at the pleasure of Soviet officials. Nor was it surprising to learn that the Russian church leader was in New Delhi for the purpose of completing arrangements for the admission of his Patriarchate into the pro-Communist World Council of Churches.

Early in 1962, the Vatican assigned French Cardinal Eugene Tisserant, possibly because of his fluency in the Russian language, to meet with Nikodim in Metz, France. That meeting, arranged by Metz Bishop Paul Joseph Schmitt, took place at the home of a Father Lagarde in the Place Ste. Glossind.

Patriarch Nikodim

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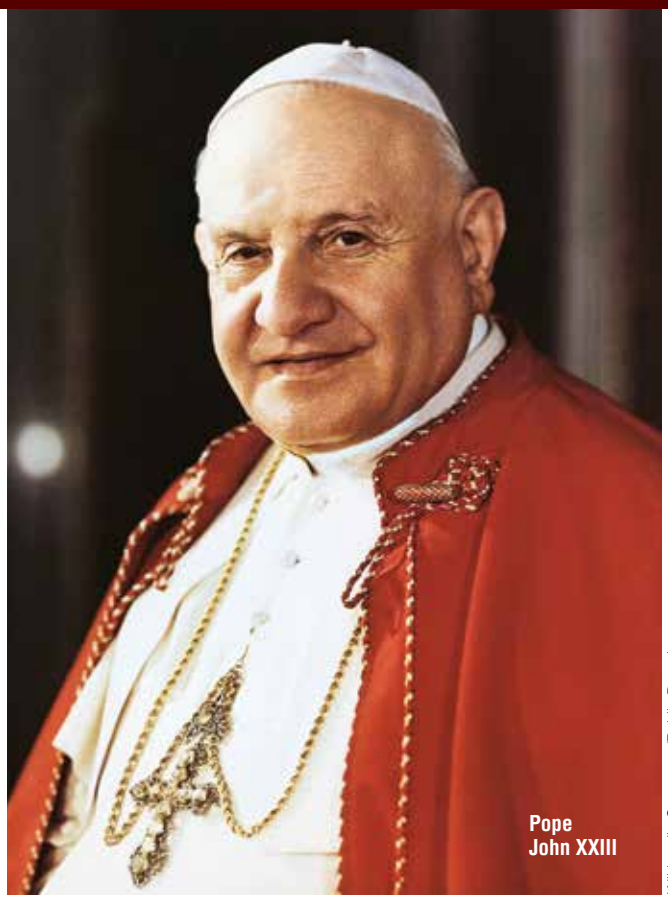
Nikodim had already stated that observers from his church would attend the Council on condition that "there are no declarations hostile to our beloved country." He added: "The Vatican is often aggressive, on the political level, toward the USSR. We, who are Christians, Russian Orthodox believers, are loyal citizens of our country and we love our motherland dearly. That is why anything aimed against our country is not likely to improve our relations with others." As the French newspaper *La Croix* was later to note in its February 15, 1963 issue of the Metz meeting: "... Nikodim agreed that someone should go to Moscow to convey an invitation, provided that a pledge were given as to the non-political attitude of the Council."

In typical Communist fashion, Moscow's spokesmen had converted their regime's incredible and ever-growing list of crimes against God and man into a matter of mere political preference. That Catholic leaders dignified such a monstrous lie, while tens of millions of Catholics were even then suffering under brutal Communist repression, was evidence of shocking weakness. But for them to have accepted such a falsehood in order to have Communists in attendance at the Council was even more indicting. The Communists gained tremendously in every element of the arrangement: The Church acquiesced in the designation of all Communist savagery as mere politics; the Communists gained assurance that their once-militant foe would no longer oppose them by name; and emissaries of outspoken atheism garbed in clerical dress were supplied unprecedented legitimacy as Vatican II's official welcome mat was placed before them.

The agreement worked out at Metz was dutifully drawn up, and it fell to Belgian Bishop Jan Willebrands to take it to Moscow. With all of their conditions fully accepted, the Russian Orthodox delegation arrived in Rome during October 1962 as official Council observers. From that point in history, there has

not been any condemnation of Communism from the seat of Roman Catholicism. Occasionally, there have been pronouncements against "atheism" or against "Godless systems." And, although many Catholics may feel certain that, on at least some occasions during the past 23 years, the Church has named and condemned its deadly foe, it has not — not during the remaining years of the pontificate of Pope John XXIII, nor through the reigns of Popes Paul VI, John Paul I and John Paul II.

One year before the Vatican-Moscow agreement was concluded, Pope John XXIII issued his encyclical *Mater et Magistra* (May 15, 1961). In it, he made reference to "the fundamental opposition between Communism and Christianity." But even that statement was attributed to Pope Pius XI and not identified in any way by Pope John as his own. It appears, nevertheless, to be the last unfavorable mention of Communism either by a Pope or in any official Church document. After the Vatican-Moscow agreement, Pope John XXIII issued his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (April 11, 1963). In it, there is no mention whatsoever of Communism.



Pope John XXIII

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On March 6, 1963, shortly before issuing *Pacem in Terris*, Pope John allowed himself to be interviewed in the Vatican by Soviet "journalist" Aleksei Adzhubei. Not only was Adzhubei the son-in-law of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, but he was also the editor of the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia*. According to observers of Italian affairs, the wide publicity given the extraordinary meeting led to one million additional votes for the Italian Communist Party in that nation's next election.

After the agreement between Moscow and the Vatican had been sealed, the Communist publication *France Nouvelle* was the first to disclose its existence. This "leading weekly of the Party" stated in its January 16, 1963 issue:

> Since the world socialist system shows its superiority indisputably and enjoys the approval of many hundreds of millions of men, the Church can no longer rest content with crude anti-communism. She has even given an undertaking, on the occasion of her dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church, that there would be no direct attack on the communist regime at the [Vatican] Council.

Elsewhere in France, the newspaper *Le Lorrain* supplied details about the Metz meeting in its issue for February 9, 1963. Then, *La Croix* ended its February 15 commentary on the highly unusual proceedings by noting Communist insistence that Catholic authorities supply a "pledge ... as to the non-political attitude of the Council."

Jean Madiran summarized all of this in his publication *Itineraires* for April 1963. In doing so, he strained greatly to make excuses for what he was reporting. He again took up the matter in June 1964, endeavoring again to put "the most benevolent interpretation" on it. Writing in February 1984, however, he declared that he had no regret for his earlier benevolence. "One has always the duty to begin this way," he maintained. "It is just that one may not persist in it, when it has become manifestly untenable."

Directly as a result of Madiran's 1984 commentary on the agreement, Msgr. Georges Roche, the late Cardinal Tisserant's close confidant, reacted in defense of his friend and former colleague. In doing so, he supplied ample confirmation that all of the previously published details were completely accurate, and he even added further information about the incident and its aftermath. In a letter to Madiran published in the May 1984 *Itineraires*, Msgr. Roche stated:

> I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that the decision to invite the Russian Orthodox observers to the Second Vatican Council had been taken personally by His Holiness Pope John XXIII with the obvious encouragement of Cardinal Montini.... What is more, it was also Cardinal Montini who secretly directed the policy of the Secretary of State during the first session of the Council from a secret place that the Pope had prepared for him in the famous St. John Tower within the walls of Vatican City.

In 1963, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini was elected the successor of Pope John; he chose the name Pope Paul VI. While it was Pope John who issued the call for the Council and who presided over the first of its four sessions, it was Pope Paul VI who guided it, first from behind the scenes, and later as the reigning pontiff through the bulk of its sessions. Msgr. Roche also happened to note that the Milan-based Cardinal Montini "had been adviser" to the Patriarch of Venice before the latter was named Pope John.

In the course of his remarkable admissions, Msgr. Roche sought to defend Cardinal Tisserant's willingness to conduct

business with the Communists by making reference to a similar pact arranged 20 years before. While Msgr. Roche may take comfort in noting that there was a recent precedent for this behavior — although it was strictly prohibited by the Pope at the time — observers of the post-Vatican II Catholic Church may find some explanation for the obvious turmoil in these details. Here is what Msgr. Roche admitted in his letter to Madiran:

> You therefore seem to be unaware of an earlier agreement which took place during the Second World War, in 1942 to be more precise, and of which the protagonists were Msgr. Montini and Stalin himself. This 1942 Agreement seems to me to be of considerable importance.

But he ended his reference to the 1942 pact right there, secure in the belief that he had defended Cardinal Tisserant's scandalous behavior of 1962 by noting similarly scandalous behavior in 1942 of the man who guided Pope John during the early portion of the Council, and then presided over its remaining sessions.

Madiran concluded his commentary on the information he had published with the following assessment:

> The Vatican-Moscow Agreement was not an error of the diplomatic or even of the political order. It was something quite different. It constituted religious treason. Certainly, it also had political consequences. It certainly derived from an error of judgment. But I repeat: Essentially it constituted religious treason and before the bar of history, it will be regarded as the 20th century disgrace of the Holy See.

Pact Implemented at Vatican II

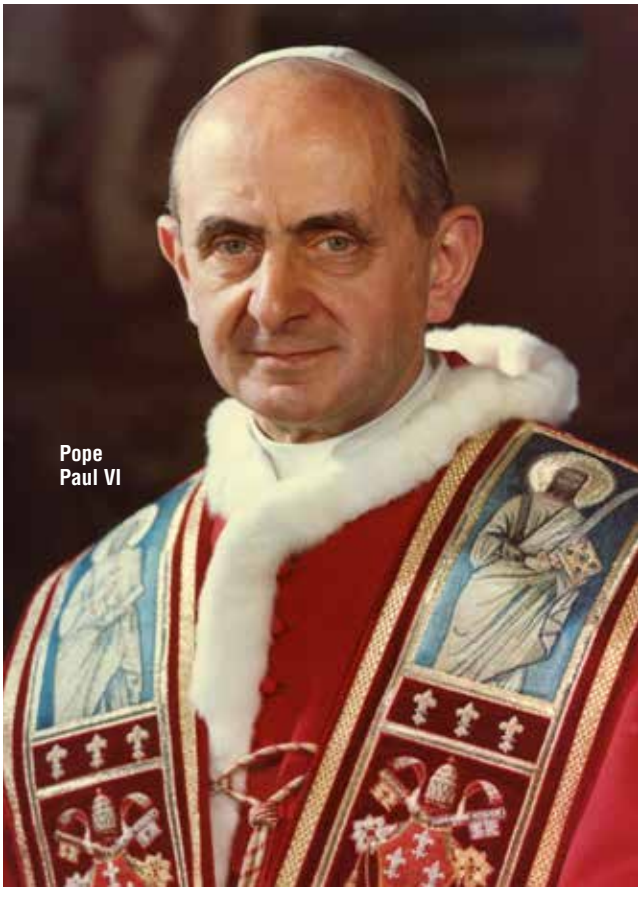
Father Ralph M. Wiltgen was ordained a Catholic priest in 1950. A member of the Divine Word Missionary Order, he was serving as its publicity director in Rome at the outset of Vatican II in 1962. A competent journalist, he founded the independent and multilingual Council News Service to assist others in acquiring accurate information during the Council's four sessions. At the peak of his service's activity, he had won the confidence of 3,000 subscribers from 108 countries.

His close contact with virtually all of the Council's proceedings enabled him to write *The Rhine Flows into the Tiber* in 1967. This 304-page book is an unparalleled history of Vatican II. From its pages can be gained a unique appreciation of the events before, during and immediately after the Council. It is from this study that the following details of the Council's refusal to condemn Communism are derived, a refusal that is completely in keeping with the provisions of the 1962 Vatican-Moscow agreement.

Nothing at all had been said about Communism during the Council's first session that met from mid-October until early December 1962. Before its next session, however, Pope John had been laid to rest and had been succeeded by Pope Paul VI, the former Cardinal Montini.

The second session of the Council met from late September until early December 1963. Only one day before its close, on December 3, Archbishop Geraldo Sigaud of Diamantina, Brazil, presented a petition addressed to Pope Paul containing the signatures of over 200 Council Fathers from 46 countries. The petition requested that a schema (a proposed official statement to be included in the Council's conclusions) be drawn up wherein "the errors of Marxism, socialism and communism would be refuted on philosophical, sociological, and economic grounds."

Archbishop Sigaud received no reply from the Pope and the second session ended. Then, on August 6, 1964, Pope Paul issued his first encyclical, *Ecclesiam Suam*, in which he called not for any condemnation of, but for dialogue with, atheistic Communism. During the Council's third session in the fall of 1964, heavy discussion developed over the proposed schema dealing with the Church in the modern world, especially over its section on atheism. Father Wiltgen noted, however, that "it carefully avoided the word communism."



Pope Paul VI

Wikimedia Commons/Harry Pot

By October 23, 1964, Archbishop Paul Yu Pin of Nanking, China (then residing in Taiwan because of his homeland's domination by Communism), publicly requested in the name of 70 Council Fathers that there be added to the schema under discussion a new chapter on atheistic Communism. Calling it "the greatest, most evident and most unfortunate of modern phenomena," he pleaded with his colleagues not to ignore "those who groan under the yoke of communism." But, again, nothing was done, and the third session of the Council ended.

When the fourth and final session convened on September 14, 1965, the schema on atheism had been revised; however, it still contained no reference to Communism. The omission

led to the circulation of a letter signed by 25 bishops that gave 10 reasons why the Council should speak on the subject. The letter claimed that silence about Communism would be "equivalent to disavowing all that had been done up until now" by previous popes. And it suggested that "tomorrow the Council will be reproved — and justly so — for its silence on Communism, which will be taken as a sign of cowardice and conniving."

The lengthy letter was written by Italian Bishop Luigi Carli. It was circulated among the Council Fathers by Archbishops Geraldo Sigaud and Marcel Lefebvre. In a short time, over 450 Council Fathers signed it. Yet, when a subsequent revision of the schema dealing with the Church in the modern world came out in mid-November, there again was no mention of Communism. Nor was there any mention of the letter and its 450 signatories representing 86 countries.

Bishop Carli protested, pointing out that the "request of the 450 Council Fathers" had met all the rules of the Council regarding the addition of amendments. His protest led to the launching of an official investigation — but the chief investigator turned out to be Cardinal Tisserant!

In rapid succession, the letter with its signatures disappeared; a priest spokesman curiously claimed "no intrigue here of any sort"; an unnamed "prelate" announced that the document had been presented "late" and, therefore, could not be considered; an element of confusion was created over the exact number of signatures and over how many had arrived on time; and, finally, a completely innocuous statement condemning "poisonous doctrines," but not even mentioning Communism, was added to the schema. Also, a list of the encyclicals of previous popes that had condemned Communism in the past was cited in a footnote.

Father Jerzy Popieluszko

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Though Archbishop Sigaud and his allies tried once more to influence the Council to condemn Communism by name, they failed completely. When asked if he was at least pleased with the addition of some new wording and the footnote, the Archbishop replied: "There is a difference between carrying a hat in your pocket, and wearing it on your head."

When the complete "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World" came up for a vote by the entire Council, there were 75 votes cast against it. The Council ended on December 8, 1965. Throughout its four years, Communism had remained untouched.

As the "spirit of Vatican II" began to dominate Catholicism, one of the earliest of the vast number of changes introduced into the Church brought an end to the practice of praying for the conversion of Russia at Mass. Any Catholic over 30 years of age will recall that, at the close of every Mass, the priest would lead the congregation in prayers that were intended "for the conversion of Russia." But this practice was dropped 20 years ago even though it was needed still, and has been needed more each year since then. Gone with those prayers, of course, was the constant reminder for all Catholics of the depravity of the system that continued to dominate Russia, and had spread its terrible power over dozens of other nations.

Communism Marches On

It is now 20 years since the Council ended, and 23 years since the Vatican agreed never again to condemn Communism. During this period, Communist power has conquered Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua and other nations. It has waged an incredibly vicious six-year campaign to subjugate the valiant people of Afghanistan. It has crushed the fleeting aspirations for freedom of the Polish people, fostered deliberate famine in Ethiopia, and sponsored terror and unrest in all corners of the globe.

Thirteen months ago, a simple but courageous Polish priest dared to speak out against the Red oppression of his land from his pulpit in Warsaw. Father Jerzy Popieluszko was kidnapped, beaten and murdered by agents of Poland's Communist government. His broken body, fished out of a reservoir, was described by columnist George Will as follows:

> His eyes and forehead had been beaten till black. His jaw, nose, mouth and skull were smashed, his fingers and toes dark red and brown from repeated clubbing. Part of his scalp and large strips of skin on his legs had been torn off.... His muscles had been pounded again and again until limp.... The teeth were found completely smashed. In place of his eloquent tongue, there was only mush.

Some Catholic leaders believe that they can coexist with such barbarism; that they should not condemn it; and that there are more important matters to consume their attention. God have mercy on them!

Opposition Must Be Waged

Twenty years ago, an American Catholic priest found himself on the horns of a dilemma that still confuses many individuals today. Pastor of a large church in an eastern state, the priest knew that Communism was evil, but he also knew that millions of his co-religionists — along with even more millions of other persuasions — were held captive under Communist rule. He carefully spelled out the alternatives faced by Catholic leaders, and by everyone: Should they seek to coexist with Communism in order to minimize possible oppression of Catholics and others, or should they work to defeat Communism with all the moral means at their disposal? The good priest even noted that some continued to suggest a middle ground that included both open coexistence and quiet opposition.

"Father," his listeners asked, "you have merely noted what courses of action are available. Which do you recommend?"

With only a momentary hesitation — obviously for the sole purpose of choosing the right words to express his response — Father said: "There is no doubt about what must be done. If no one opposes evil, evil will triumph." He lived only a few more years. When he died, he knew nothing of the treasonous pact that Church officials had already negotiated. Had he known, he would not have rested until it was abrogated.

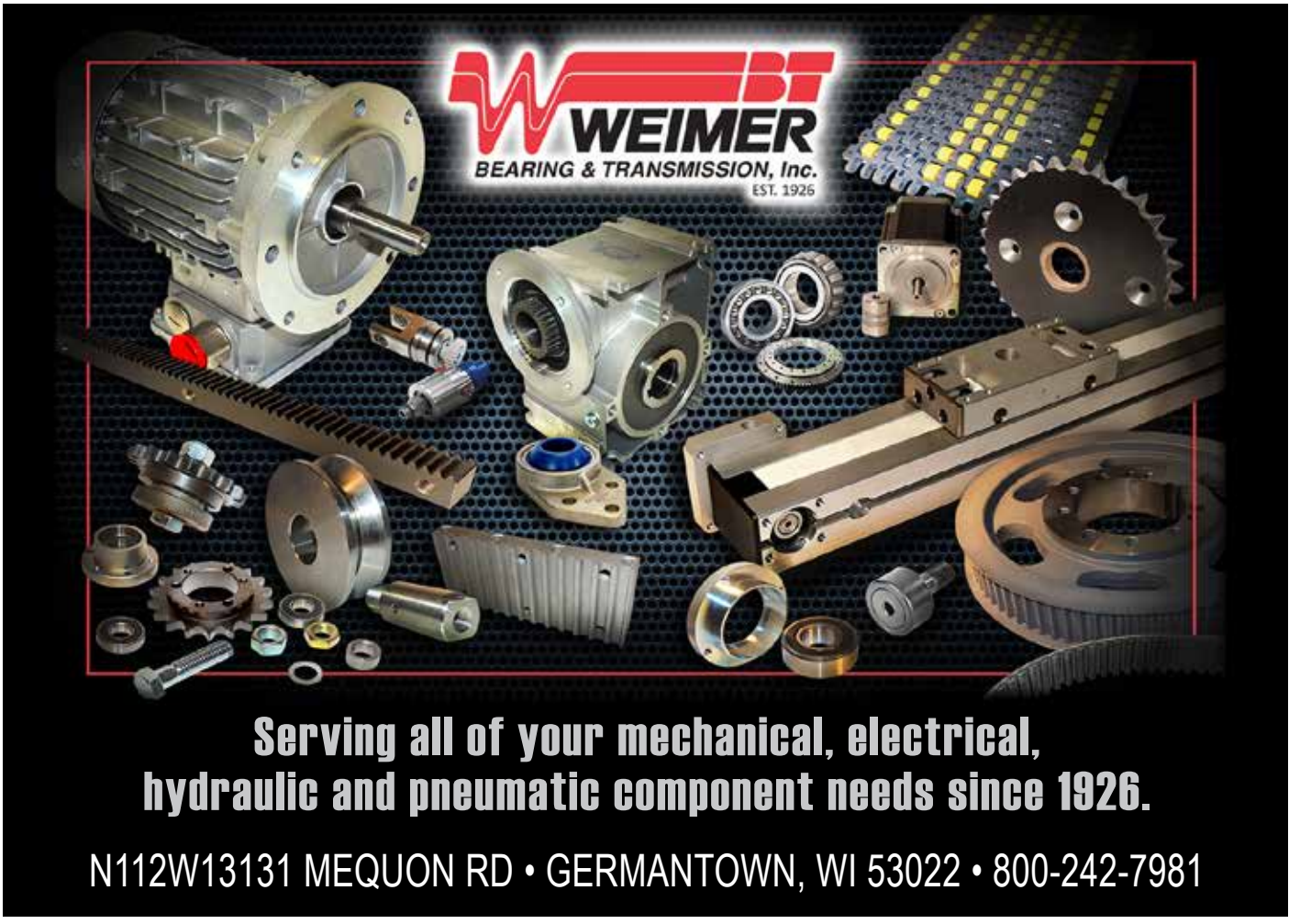
Most Catholics today likewise know nothing of these events of the 1960s. They are unaware of the reason why their Church offers no resistance to Communism today. Clearly, a powerful few have exercised an evil influence over an organization whose members number in the hundreds of millions. Clearly, these few must be confronted and exposed.

There have been similar dark periods in the history of the Catholic Church. During the Arian heresy of the 4th century, as many as 95 percent of the hierarchy had been led astray. But the people stood firm, and it was their steadfastness that helped their leaders to abandon error.

The Catholic people can provide the same firmness today. And they will do so if they understand how deeply error has permeated their Church.

Which, of course, is why this information has been assembled and published. If there is anything that ought to occupy the attention of the participants at the synod in Rome, it is a repudiation of the 1962 Vatican-Moscow agreement.

No one of good will gains when Communism's traditional foes are neutralized. Rather, men of good will everywhere would be inspired were they to hear again from Catholic leaders the wisdom and the strength of Pope Pius XI, who told the world on March 28, 1937: "... Communism is intrinsically wrong and no one who would save Christian civilization may collaborate with it in any undertaking whatsoever." ■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CIA DEMOCRATS INFILTRATE CONGRESS

A Democratic military/intelligence combine has penetrated Congress. Its members hope to frustrate Trump's America First, anti-globalist agenda.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

The headline over the NBC News report in December 2023 seemed innocuous enough: "Democratic lawmakers who served in uniform and in the CIA urge Biden to push Israel to change course in Gaza." Nothing could be wrong, it would seem, with the experts bringing their years of experience in America's military/intelligence apparatus to bear on foreign and military policy.

The legislators wrote that "the mounting civilian death toll and humanitarian crisis are unacceptable and not in line with American interests; nor do they advance the cause of security for our ally, Israel."

They were frustrated that Israel ignored their advice: "From our positions on the Intelligence, Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees, we have consistently pushed for Israel to shift its military strategy. There has been no significant change."

Included in this prestigious collection of Democratic congressmen were, as NBC explained, "Jason Crow of Colorado, who served combat tours in Iraq as an Army paratrooper; Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey, a former Navy helicopter pilot; Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, a former U.S. Air Force officer; Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, a former Marine Corps officer who served in Iraq; Abigail Spanberger of Virginia, a former CIA officer; and Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, who worked for the CIA and as a senior Pentagon official."

But that's only a short list of what the World Socialist website calls the "CIA Democrats" in Congress, sounding an alarm over just how many were running for office in the last national election: almost three dozen.

The party's concerted effort to recruit candidates from two American institutions it once held in disdain — the military and the CIA — strongly demonstrates that globalist mischief on Capitol Hill is afoot. And with good reason. President-elect Donald Trump has remade the GOP into something of an anti-war, anti-globalist party. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party has become a merger of never-Trump former Republican neoconservatives and their far-left or neoliberal allies unafraid to start World War III with Russia or otherwise create trouble across the world — in Syria, perhaps — before Trump takes office. Not for nothing did President Joe Biden give Ukraine the go-ahead to launch American long-range missiles inside Russia, which provoked a warning shot in the form of a test launch of a medium-range ballistic missile on Ukraine and another major attack on its power grid.

The larger point is that the Deep State's preferred political vehicle for pushing a global woke agenda — which might well include that world war — is the Democratic Party.

Growing Power

The Democrats' infiltration of Congress with military-intelligence operatives began in 2013, *Politico* reported. The purpose: disabuse Americans of the notion that the party is home to nothing more than soy-eating, Obama-voting pajama boys.

"Democrats need to win in conservative parts of the country next year to capture the House and keep the Senate — and they're turning to a few good men (and women) to help," the website reported: "The party has mounted a con-

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American. *He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

certed push to recruit military veterans to run in next year's midterm, figuring it's a lot harder for Republicans to caricature people who've donned their country's uniform as Obama-loving liberals."

Neoconservative Marc Thiessen heartily approved.

"This may be bad for the GOP, but it is probably good for the country," he wrote. "Quite frankly, we need more combat veterans to run for office in both parties — because both parties are becoming increasingly dovish and isolationist."

"During the recent debate over Syria ... many Democrats were unwilling to support their own president in conducting even 'unbelievably small' military strikes against the Assad regime," Thiessen fretted. That regime is no more, of course, possibly thanks to CIA-Mossad shenanigans.

Even worse, Thiessen wrote, "on the Republican side, we are also seeing a rise in isolationist sentiment with the election of folks like Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, and, in the House, Justin Amash."

Thus, the Democrats had to get tough on foreign and military policy.

As the World Socialist website reported of this year's election, "the total of [34] Democrats seeking House seats on the basis of their military-intelligence credentials continues at the scale of the previous three elections":

> In 2018, 30 CIA Democrats ran in the general election, and 11 won Republican seats, one-quarter of the total 40-seat gain for the Democrats. In 2020, there were 35 CIA Democrats on the November ballot, including 11 running for reelection. Their number rose to 12, despite the Democrats losing seats overall. In 2022, there were 34 CIA Democrats on the ballot, again with 11 seeking reelection. There was a net gain of two, bringing the total up to 13.

The website reported that the numbers are not "accidental," but instead reflect a "definite policy" with two components: The party is using the candidates they think can win; and the military/intelligence combine sees the party as its "preferred vehicle for advancing the interests of American imperialism." Another word for "imperialism" is globalism, and those "CIA Democrats" will oppose any move by Trump to put America First and nations like Ukraine last.

AP Images

Partisan: Democrat Abigail Spanberger, who quit Congress to run for Virginia governor, is a former CIA spymaster. Though Spanberger claims she evaluated foreign and military policy in a nonpartisan manner, she is a far-left, hate-Trump Democrat who viciously attacked former fellow Democrat Tulsi Gabbard, saying she "cozies up" to dictators.

Two examples are departing Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger of Virginia's 7th District, who left office to run for governor, and her replacement, former Army Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Vindman — real first name, Yevgeny. He is one of the notorious Vindman twins. The other is Alexander, who undermined Trump's effort to uncover the Biden-Burisma influence-peddling scheme in Ukraine by leaking the president's phone call with then-Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky, which led to Trump's first impeachment.

Elected in 2018, Spanberger was an undercover spymaster for the CIA.

"She handled and recruited spies in Europe, where she specialized in counterterrorism and nuclear proliferation issues," *The Washington Post* reported in its glowing profile about the newly elected congresswoman:

> She aspired to an appointment somewhere as chief of station, the Langley equivalent of ambassador. Instead she wound up leaving the agency in 2014 in search of a less nomadic life after having three children.
>
> Then came the Trump presidency and an overheated climate in which partisanship often triumphed over facts. So Spanberger (D-Va.), a proudly apolitical collector of evidence, decided to do something profoundly radical for an ex-spy.… On Thursday, as the 116th Congress convened, she joined a small vanguard of ex-intelligence officers becoming Instagram-friendly lawmakers.
>
> "Leaving the CIA was the biggest loss of my life. I mourned the agency. I miss it every day," said Spanberger, 39, one of three former CIA officers serving in the new Congress.

Former congressman and CIA chief Leon Panetta told the *Post* that running for Congress was once frowned upon by CIA operatives. That's no longer the case. CIA operatives think they must help shape public policy.

And indeed, that is why Spanberger got into politics.

"For so many of us with national security backgrounds, bringing our history of public service without a partisan lens is important — and it's a skill set," Spanberger told the

newspaper. "We served the mission under Republican and Democratic presidents."

But, of course, Spanberger *is* a partisan. She *is not* "apolitical." She is a far-left, pro-abortion Democrat. And a hate-Trump Democrat at that.

For instance, Spanberger pronounced herself "appalled" at President-elect Trump's appointment of former Democratic Representative Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence.

"Not only is she ill-prepared and unqualified, but she traffics in conspiracy theories and cozies up to dictators like Bashar-al Assad and Vladimir Putin," Spanberger lied.

Spanberger is most likely worried that Gabbard might expose CIA misdeeds and mischief abroad and fire CIA and other intelligence operatives who tried to undermine Trump during his first term.

That Gabbard "cozies up" to dictators was a Democratic meme. Vindman, who succeeded Spanberger, used almost the exact same language:

> Tulsi Gabbard has a checkered history including peddling conspiracy theories and cozying up to dictators such as Bashar Al-Assad and Vladimir Putin.
>
> The Senate has a constitutional duty to consider these nominees and reject those who's [sic] qualifications are not exemplary and who's [sic] commitment to U.S. national security interests is not ironclad. Our standing on the world's stage depends on it.

A Ukrainian Jewish immigrant, Vindman is, again, the brother of the nefarious Alexander. Both were detailed to the National Security Council, where they helped shape policy, wouldn't you know it, on Ukraine. Trump fired both after they tried to destroy his presidency. Alexander's wife, by the way, ridiculed President Trump after the first assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania.

After they left the Army, the Vindmans founded a company called Trident Support, which secretly sought millions in defense contracts from Ukraine's military, *Human Events* reported: "Trident Support would be a middle-man between NATO weapons and Ukrainian forces, teaching the latter how to operate and repair the equipment, while taking an exorbitant fee from Ukraine to do it."

AP Images

Interventionist: Eugene Vindman — real name Yevgeny — a Ukrainian immigrant, is a hate-Trump Democrat and former Army lawyer who tried to wreck the first Trump administration. He hopes to enmesh the United States further into Ukraine's losing war with Russia, and is likely more concerned about his homeland than he is about his constituents.

The *New York Post* reported that Eugene Vindman refused to answer pre-election questions about 14 taxpayer funded trips to Ukraine to investigate "atrocities."

An obvious observation about the immigrant twins is that they brought their ethnic and geopolitical hatreds with them to this country, rose to high positions in the Army, and then, as personnel on the National Security Council, played a role in determining national security policy vis-à-vis their hated enemy, Russia. And, of course, they tried to bring down a president about to expose a major scandal in their political party: The Biden-Burisma influence-peddling scheme.

Now, globalist Congressman Vindman can push legislation on Capitol Hill that enshrines his fever dreams of the United States saving his homeland from Russia — perhaps with the result of a nuclear World War III — in public policy. One wonders just whose interests Congressman Vindman will represent on Capitol Hill: his constituents', or Ukraine's.

Another CIA operative is Elissa Slotkin, who rose from the House to the Senate this election.

Slotkin is all-in for a woke agenda at the Pentagon, and is concerned that Pete Hegseth, the nominee for defense secretary, might keep women out of combat, ABC News reported:

> "I can tell you, because I was at the Pentagon on Thursday, and there is absolute, like hallway, constant chatter and conversation and concern from senior women officers. But also I've heard from folks who I've recommended to service academies, young women who are just starting out their career, saying, 'Am I going to actually be able to accomplish what I want to accomplish here?'" Slotkin said.

The military's job is fighting wars, not accommodating women who want "to accomplish what I want to accomplish." But in any event, Slotkin wants Hegseth and Gabbard to tell Trump the truth, not "what he wants to hear," she told the network's far-left talker Martha Raddatz. Slotkin needs to know they'll give Trump "what is actually the truth on the ground," meaning the "truth" as she sees it. In other words, she expects them to push the Deep State's woke globalist interventionism.

The rest of the winning military-intelligence Democrats elected to Congress or public office, some of them incumbents, were the following:

- Andy Kim, former CIA, U.S. Senate, New Jersey;
- Maggie Goodlander, Naval Intelligence, wife of Clinton torpedo Jake Sullivan, U.S. House, New Hampshire;
- Jared Golden, Marines, U.S. House, Maine;
- Chrissy Houlahan, Air Force, U.S. House, Pennsylvania;
- Mikie Sherrill, Navy aviator, U.S. House, New Jersey;
- Jason Crow, Army Ranger, U.S. House, Colorado;

AP Images

Join the club: Former Navy chopper pilot Mikie Sherrill is another "CIA Democrat" recently reelected to Congress.

- Pat Ryan, Army intelligence, U.S. House, New York;
- Jake Auchincloss, Marines, U.S. House, Massachusetts;
- Sara Jacobs, United Nations, U.S. House, California;
- Chris Deluzio, Navy, U.S. House, Pennsylvania;
- Don Davis, Air Force, U.S. House, North Carolina;
- Seth Moulton, Marines, U.S. House, Massachusetts;
- Jeff Jackson, Army, Attorney General, North Carolina;

Another almost two dozen military/intelligence Democrats lost their races.

Not to put too fine a point on just how woke some of these people are, but Jacobs is a big supporter of "transgenders" in the military. "A trans military ban would cost $18 billion to recruit, train, and replace the thousands of fully trained and qualified trans personnel in our ranks," she wrote on X. "We shouldn't throw this money (and our values) down the drain."

Should So Many Military/Intel Operatives Worry Americans?

That so many former military/intelligence veterans are serving in Congress mightn't be such a grave concern if it weren't for one thing: Almost all are Democrats who back a globalist, interventionist foreign and military policy. Granted, some of the military/intelligence personnel are Republicans, such as former Green Beret Mike Waltz of Florida, who is slated to become Trump's national security advisor. And Slotkin ran against former FBI agent Mike Rogers in Michigan.

As well, former military Republicans greatly outnumbered former military Democrats in the 118th Congress. But with a Trumpist, America First GOP, a former intelligence analyst told *The New American*, the Democrats "represent the center of the elites' globalist ideology." And Trump has no guarantee former military Republicans will accept his America First program. Example: interventionist Representative Dan Crenshaw of Texas.

"Trump has changed the political landscape," the analyst said. "That's why so many former Bush administration officials endorsed Harris. What we are witnessing is the continuation of a neoconservative/neoliberal merger."

That merger has ended the old Democratic Party's hostility toward the military and intelligence communities. The anti-Vietnam War party of the 1960s now backs "color revolutions" and "regime change" to remove "roadblocks to [Deep State] plans for woke corporatism around the world," he said.

That woke ideology partly explains the Democrats' hostility to Russian president Vladimir "The Next Hitler" Putin, who opposes the sexual decadence he sees in the West and has refused to permit it to poison his country. Examples of exporting woke ideology are the Biden State Department subsidizing drag-queen performances in Ecuador and English lessons for "transgenders" in Pakistan.

But planting woke, globalist technocrats in Congress who will oppose Trump's America First, anti-interventionist platform is just one national peril.

"Recent history" — especially the Clinton presidential campaign's Russia Collusion Hoax — "suggests that the CIA and military Democrats might still be working" for their former employers and not only trying to undermine Trump on Capitol Hill, but also spying on pro-Trump Republicans, the analyst said.

The military/intelligence combine might be "retiring" or separating these operatives with instructions to run for office, the analyst speculated: "The CIA and other elements in the military and the security-foreign policy complex need avenues for protecting their interests and prerogatives. America First is anathema to their ideology."

That raises the question of whether the Democratic Party is working with the CIA and other elements in the military/intelligence communities to recruit candidates *before* they quit their agencies.

Even worse is another possibility. The analyst said he wouldn't put it past the CIA or another intelligence bureau to secretly — and illegally — pump money into campaigns. "Opponents of a more restrained foreign policy would be willing to take whatever measures they deem necessary to block such a policy shift" toward America First, he said. Scruples about secret projects on American soil, after all, were never the CIA's strong suit, apropos of its illegal MKUltra project that subjected unwitting Americans to being dosed with LSD, or the National Security Agency's domestic surveillance program. More recently, Gabbard learned that federal agents were tracking her as a potential terrorist after she criticized Vice President Kamala Harris.

One example of "whatever means

necessary" would be the taxpayer-subsidized Russia Collusion Hoax. With 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's approval, her campaign illegally channeled money to British spy Christopher Steele, who concocted the notorious dossier that was the linchpin of the false accusations that Trump "colluded" with Russia to win the 2016 election.

After Trump fired FBI Director James Comey because he wouldn't say publicly that the president wasn't the target of a bureau probe, then-Deputy Director Andrew McCabe told Scott Pelley of *60 Minutes* that Trump's firing Comey suggested that the president did indeed collude with the Russians. McCabe worried that the collusion probe, called Crossfire Hurricane, would die if he were fired. Thus, he and top Justice Department personnel, including Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, met to discuss using the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to remove Trump from office. The reason: Trump was supposedly incapable of carrying out his duties.

Also involved in the plot to overthrow Trump was the late GOP Senator John McCain of Arizona. McCain leaked the Steele dossier to the BuzzFeed website, which reported the dossier's false and salacious allegations as if they were fact. McCain also passed material from Steele to Comey.

McCabe and two FBI operatives used the Steele dossier — despite knowing it was likely disinformation — to obtain a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to wiretap Trump campaign official Carter Page. Those two FBI operatives, disgraced former Deputy Counterintelligence Director Pete Strzok and his gal pal, FBI in-house attorney Lisa Page, openly discussed derailing Trump's election effort. Another FBI official doctored an email to help get the wiretap application, which contained 17 errors.

Worse still, President Barack Obama and his communist CIA chief, John Brennan, along with Comey, McCabe, and Strzok, were aware that Clinton conceived the collusion hoax, as Brennan's hand-written notes about it proved.

The upshot is that a Democratic president, along with his CIA, FBI, and Justice Department and a U.S. senator, conspired to bring down a GOP presidential candidate's campaign with accusations of what amounts to treason. That effort to destroy Trump continued into his first presidency.

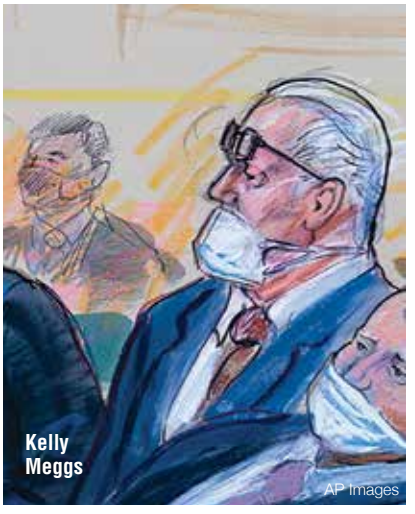
Thus, the analyst said, Americans should not doubt that interventionists in the CIA and the rest of the military/intelligence community are involved in planting operatives on Capitol Hill via the Democratic Party. "The globalists are moving to counter foreign policy shifts that could derail their expansionist vision," he said. "Supporting former intelligence and military officers in congressional races fits very well with their overall opposition to Trump, MAGA, and America First."

Long ago it was a Democrat, Idaho Senator Frank Church, who famously exposed many of the CIA's misdeeds. Now Americans must worry whether the Democratic Party is helping perpetrate them. ■

Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

Letter From a J6 Prisoner

by Kelly Meggs



Editor's Note: President-elect Donald Trump has, on multiple occasions, referred to Americans imprisoned for their role in the January 6, 2021 protest at the U.S. Capitol as "political prisoners" and "hostages," and has called the rally-gone-wrong at the U.S. Capitol a "setup." But when pressed about whether he will pardon J6ers, some of his responses have been couched in less-than-reassuring terms. One of the J6ers eagerly awaiting a pardon is Kelly Meggs, the former leader of Florida's Oath Keepers. Authorities arrested him in February 2021, though he was working security in D.C. on January 6 with Secret Service security clearance. His full story is told in The New American's *February 12, 2024 issue. Following are his thoughts in the aftermath of Trump's victory on November 5.*

"If they're innocent, I would pardon them," Trump said during a panel at the National Association of Black Journalists in July. He made a similar non-committal in 2023 at a town hall in New Hampshire, when he said that he was "inclined to pardon many of them." In March of [2024], he posted on Truth Social: "My first acts as your next President will be to Close the Border, DRILL, BABY, DRILL, and Free the January 6 Hostages being wrongfully imprisoned!" In his December 8, 2024 interview with NBC's *Meet the Press*, he reiterated his intention to issue pardons on day one.

I want to address January 6, 2021, and the subsequent media lies about what happened that day. I believe that January 6 was an event staged by the Left to set up for a potential actual insurrection, since they knew that Trump could resurface to threaten One World Government plans. This became obvious to me when the President of the Senate — the Vice President [Mike Pence], who signs off on election results on January 6 — became a candidate for President. For me, that confirmed the idea that January 6, 2021, was a staged and planned series of events.

Who better to go along with a fake elector plan than the person who would benefit most from the scam? Think back: Pence would have been even more cooperative had he been the one that would hold office. Additionally, Kamala Harris would have had the entire Democratic Party behind her if she refused to certify the results of the 2024 election. We all know at least a thousand better candidates than Kamala, yet she was installed as the Democratic candidate, setting things up for a steal if the possibility presented itself. Fortunately for us and to the agonizing dismay of leftists, America was not ready for the One World Government agenda.

The election results sent two clear and decisive messages to the world. The first is that America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave. The second is that the silent majority awakens when threatened from an enemy within. They had had enough of the Biden-Harris regime and saw what One World Government policies would do to our great nation. They delivered such a decisive win that the would-be election thieves could not stop the MAGA movement's momentum. As I write this, House seats are still being counted in their last-ditch effort to disrupt Trump's next four years. They know if America First gets the House, Senate, and presidency, the globalist agenda is imperiled. They are pulling out all the stops to try to swing or swindle those last few House seats

that at first clearly looked to be in Republican control.

Over the past four years I have researched my wrongful charge of seditious conspiracy. Perhaps most compelling of my reading material is a quote published in *The New American* magazine in September, from Algernon Sydney's *Discourses Concerning Government*: "If it be said that the word SEDITION implies that which is evil; I answer, that it ought not then be applied to those who seek nothing but that which is just."

U.S. Capitol videos released by Steve Baker of Blaze Media clearly show myself and my fellow Oath Keepers *assisting* officers, not causing trouble.

AP Images

Finally, I hear radio and TV personalities today asking a key question — the same one all of us in D.C. back in January 2021 were asking: How is it that the last eight elections held between 60 and 69 million votes for the Democratic Party, yet support for Joe Biden spiked to over 80 million in 2021? In 2024, with everyone being watched carefully, the tally is back down to 60 million votes. We deserve an answer. That is why January 6 occurred. It was not a riot; it was not an insurrection. It was a constitutional right and duty to demand a redress of grievances. Once operatives attacked the crowd, a riot ensued, just as they planned.

You will see over the next few years the real story of January 6 revealed, told by those who were on the ground and [have been] rotting in prisons for the last four years. Though the truth will be a painful pill for many to swallow, it will show how media have been lying, covering for a corrupt political machine that is driving us into globalist destruction, not by accident but by design.

Many people were worried about the 2024 election, but no one was more concerned about it than I. It was not just the future of our country, but my very life on the line, at least the next six years of it. I have lost almost everything. I have lost a good job, rental property, 401(k), and savings accounts, all liquidated to pay bills while I've been imprisoned. This has cost me both my personal reputation and likely more than one million dollars in expenses and loss of salary. It has crushed my family, as we have not been together in four years. I hope that in January, Trump delivers on his promised pardon. If so, we will be united again.

However, despite everything, I would not change a thing about that fateful day in January, 2021. I believe my presence prevented several injuries and potential deaths. It helped awaken the nation to much injustice going on. It exposed another level of corruption and lawfare that the Democratic Party is willing to use to keep and maintain their power. Finally, I now see how they had planned to use similar tactics in 2024.

But the American people prevented another January 6 from happening. The vote was too big, too decisive, and too unified. All races and creeds came together for one purpose — to clearly state that we have had enough. It was the biggest peaceful protest our country has ever seen. November 5, 2024 will be etched in the history books as the day every American-loving citizen exercised his constitutional right to vote. We the People have spoken!

I continue to remind people that this is not about Donald Trump, as great as he is. It's about our constitutional republic and our Founding Fathers' original intent. It is our job to make sure it gets fixed and never corrupted again. I believe Donald Trump will change things for the better. But let's not forget why he did it: to put us back on track to being a powerful, sovereign One Nation Under God.

If you would like to help my family, please purchase my book *Fight Fight Fight* on Amazon or go to Givesendgo.com/meggs. Thank you all for voting, it has truly changed my life. God bless you and God bless America! ■

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Alaska Turkey Drop

In Alaska, where grocery stores are often hundreds of miles apart and remote communities are difficult to access, Esther Keim brought Thanksgiving to those living off the grid. For the third year in a row, she piloted her small plane to deliver frozen turkeys to families in isolated areas, *Times Union* reported. This past November, her efforts reached households across south-central Alaska, providing them with holiday meals and a sense of connection.

Keim calls her project the "Alaska Turkey Bomb." It is inspired by her childhood experiences of receiving airdropped turkeys and gifts from a family friend while living on a remote homestead. "It was always so exciting and brought us so much joy," Keim shared. "I want to share that feeling with others who are far from the conveniences of town."

This year, Keim delivered 32 turkeys, including one to Dave and Christina Luce, who live along the Yentna River, northwest of Anchorage. Although they enjoy their remote lifestyle, winters can be difficult. "At 80, making long snowmobile trips to town is no longer practical," Dave said. "Esther's turkey delivery is a big help for us and some of our neighbors."

Keim funds her efforts through donations she gathers online. After purchasing the turkeys, she wraps them in plastic, stores them in her truck, and plans her flights to ensure recipients are home when she arrives. "We fly low over their house so they know to come outside," Keim explained. "I've never hit anything — just the snow!"

The success of her project has inspired Keim to consider expanding her efforts in the future, possibly creating a nonprofit to include additional gifts such as toys for children. "It's not just about delivering turkeys," she said. "It's about showing people that they are cared for, no matter how remote they are."

Through her work, Keim is building connections in areas that are often hard to reach. Her efforts bring a sense of community and support to those who might otherwise feel forgotten during the holiday season.

Rallying Fans

In November 2024, Money Williams, a University of Montana sophomore who plays guard for the Montana Grizzlies basketball team, delivered an impressive performance at the Food City Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, scoring a game-high 30 points against the 11th-ranked Tennessee Volunteers. His standout game came during a challenging period in his personal life.

On October 12, Williams and his sister, Mo'Ney, lost their mother. This followed the loss of their father earlier in the year, leaving the two as primary caregivers for their three younger siblings. MontanaSports.com reported that to support the family's immediate and long-term needs, a GoFundMe campaign was launched on October 14.

By the time Williams faced Tennessee, the campaign had raised more than $73,000. Fans of the Volunteers contributed significantly to the cause, adding $50,000 within a few days. By November 18, the total had surpassed $127,000, with a new goal set at $150,000. The funds are intended to cover funeral expenses, daily living needs, and educational opportunities for the siblings. Williams expressed gratitude on the campaign page, stating, "Any help you can provide will make a significant difference in our lives."

During the game, Williams scored 16 points in the first half and 14 in the second, hitting four three-pointers and converting 10 of 13 free-throw attempts. His performance helped Montana remain competitive early before Tennessee ultimately secured the win. Head coach Travis DeCuire praised Williams for his leadership and ability to deliver under pressure. "Money is good at making plays. He stepped up tonight to keep us in the game," he said.

The support from Tennessee fans demonstrated the generosity of the sports community. Their contributions went beyond the court, providing encouragement and resources to Williams and his family during a difficult time.

Williams continues to balance his responsibilities as a team leader and a caregiver, drawing strength from the outpouring of support. The community's response has reminded his family that even in challenging times, they are not alone.

A New Beginning

In November 2024, Sarah Wilson spent Thanksgiving in her own home in Long Beach, California, with her son Ryan — a significant milestone after facing numerous challenges. Just a year prior, according to Fox 11, Wilson had been homeless, pregnant, and incarcerated.

Her journey toward stability began through Holliday's Helping Hands, a nonprofit established in 2018 by Katina Holliday. The organization assists pregnant women in prison by offering rehabilitation services, therapy, education, and access to stable housing.

Wilson had been serving an eight-year sentence for drug offenses when she was offered the opportunity to participate in a program focused on recovery and rebuilding. After serving 10 months and committing to change, she gained access to housing and resources to support her sobriety and personal growth. Now 18 months sober, Wilson lives in a home provided through the program, where she can remain as long as she adheres to its guidelines.

Since its founding, Holliday's Helping Hands has helped more than 500 families secure housing and work toward a better future. Holliday emphasized the importance of providing tangible support to those striving for a fresh start, saying the organization is dedicated to transforming lives.

Wilson credited the program with helping her achieve stability and independence. She described her home as a foundation for her future and a safe environment for her son to grow up in. Reflecting on her progress, she shared that consistent effort and surrounding herself with supportive people made her transformation possible.

This Thanksgiving was a turning point for Wilson, marking her transition from instability to a life filled with possibility and hope. ■

— Raven Clabough

"We Want People to Do the Right Thing"

The *Dayton Daily News* reported out of Ohio on November 15 about elected leaders actually looking to protect gun rights for a change. A bipartisan group of legislators in the Ohio state Senate unanimously approved a bill that would grant civil immunity to anyone who engages in armed self-defense to protect attendees of religious institutions or any nonprofit organization. This would mean that if there is any type of violent attack at a church or similar locale and a law-abiding person uses his own firearm to halt the attack, that individual would not be liable for any injuries occurring as a result of that armed self-defense.

The bill is now before the Ohio House, and considering how it succeeded in the Senate due to support from gun lobbyists and religious organizations, odds are good that it will succeed in the House as well. Republican Ohio Senator Tim Schaffer, who sponsored the bill, explained that "the concept for this legislation was brought to my attention by a constituent who wants to close the loophole in current law for his church…. My constituent's church has highly trained members who carry concealed as a part of their structured defensive protection plan, as do many other places of worship throughout our state."

President and CEO of Ohio Jewish Communities Howie Beigelman identified the bill as a "critical missing piece to community safety." Beigelman testified in support of the bill before the Legislature, and explained that "whether on duty, off duty, or as private security, we depend on armed individuals to be our last line of defense…. What this legislation will do is very simply provide legal immunity to those defending houses of worship, preschools, summer camps, community centers, nursing homes, and college student groups from those with deadly intent."

Greg Hennecke, a representative of Warren County's Christ's Fellowship at Little Miami church, also testified before the Legislature in support of the bill and lauded the proposed law as an "excellent step in the right direction…. This is a good bill. We need to encourage our fellow Ohioans to take responsibility to protect themselves and their families…. Too many times people are afraid to act for fear of the legal consequences and their inaction only leads to further destruction and devastation. We should surround and protect those who step forward to protect innocent lives by eliminating this obstacle."

Buckeye Firearms Association Legislative Affairs Director Rob Sexton testified in support of the bill as well, and said the law "extends civil protection for people who do the right thing. We want people to do the right thing."

Concealed-carry Reciprocity

ABC News reported on November 13 that anti-gun groups are worried about Donald Trump delivering on his campaign promise to implement a national concealed-carry reciprocity law. Donald Trump, Jr. recently posted a clip of his father making the promise back in 2023 on his Instagram account, and wrote "BOOM! My father just announced full concealed carry reciprocity! The 2nd Amendment will stay and remain protected."

In the video that Trump, Jr. shared, Donald Trump exclaimed, "I will protect the right of self-defense everywhere it is under siege…. And I will sign concealed-carry reciprocity. Your Second Amendment does not end at the state line."

ABC News explained that 29 states already permit some variation of concealed-carry reciprocity, but some of those states only permit it for out-of-state gun owners if their home state reciprocates. Currently, nine states do not honor concealed-carry permits from other states. Twenty-six states have some version of what is popularly referred to as "constitutional carry," which means the permitless concealed carry of firearms is allowed in the state without first obtaining state licensing. If President Trump signs a national reciprocal concealed-carry law, then residents of those states with constitutional carry could lawfully carry concealed in states without constitutional carry.

The national reciprocal concealed-carry law actually came up during Trump's first term. It passed the House, but stalled in the Democrat-controlled Senate. President Trump has a Republican-controlled Senate this time, so things might be different. Republican Congressman Richard Hudson from North Carolina, who sponsored the bill in the House, explained that "the Second Amendment does not disappear when crossing an invisible state line." At a Trump rally right before the election, Hudson mentioned the proposed law and told rally attendees that the "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act protects law-abiding citizens' right to conceal carry and travel freely between states without worrying about conflicting state codes or onerous civil suits…. I am especially proud to have such widespread and bipartisan support for this measure as I continue working to get this legislation over the finish line."

Hudson certainly isn't alone. In a video post on Instagram, a fellow Republican Congressman from North Carolina, Pat Harrigan, joined in supporting the act and urged President Trump to fulfill his campaign promise. "President Trump is right: Just because we cross state lines does not mean that we should lose our Second Amendment rights."

Newsweek reported on November 11 about the chances that such a law could become a reality in the near future, and featured criticism coming from the notorious anti-gun organization Everytown for Gun Safety, which characterized the proposed reciprocity on social media as "Trump's vision for America: Guns everywhere, for anyone, with no questions asked."

Newsweek explained that while the reciprocal concealed-carry law might take some time to work through the House and the Senate, some of the more immediate changes we could see after President Trump assumes office would be him issuing executive orders rescinding Biden's gun control. *Newsweek* also noted that Trump plans to replace the head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, whom he had criticized on the campaign trail as an "anti-gun fanatic." ■

— Patrick Krey

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(January 13, 2025) TNA250113

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The MAGA movement won big in the November elections. However, the fight to keep our Republic is only getting started. **(December 16, 2024) TNA241216**

Making America Sick, One Bite at a Time

Americans are among the most chronically sick people in the world. What does this mean for our ability to restore the Republic and be an independent people? **(November 25, 2024) TNA241125**

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Oath Keeper Kelly Meggs is one of hundreds of U.S. citizens languishing in federal prisons. His story is an example of the political persecution they all endure. **(February 12, 2024) TNA240212**

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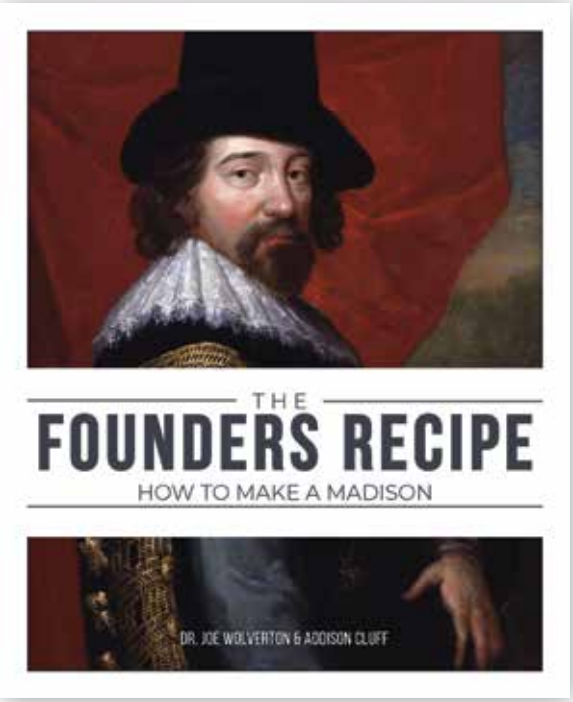
THE REVIEW

Behind the Founders

by Steve Byas

***The Founders Recipe: How to Make a Madison*,** by Joe Wolverton, Memphis, Tennessee: Teachers of Liberty LLC, 2024, 298 pages, paperback. To order, go to ShopJBS.org (PDF) or Amazon.com (paperback).



In his keynote address at the 1916 Republican National Convention, and then again in his 1921 inaugural address, President Warren Harding called the men who created our constitutional Republic the Founding Fathers. Indeed, no one was ever born without a human father (except Adam and Jesus), and without men such as James Madison, our nation would not have been born as a federal republic.

But what sources did these great men draw upon when they established that federal republic? That is the question Joe Wolverton II, J.D. seeks to answer in his heavily documented book *The Founders Recipe: How to Make a Madison*. The goal is for serious students of the Constitution to know not only *what* is in that document, but also *why* it is in there. According to Wolverton, "We must recognize that if we expect to create a new James Madison, for example, we must do those things that made James Madison who he was."

Wolverton tells the story of his grandmother's banana pudding, which was made from a special recipe. In his words, he wants to "share with you the recipe … that made our Founders who they were." In 1984, two political science professors researched nearly 15,000 writings, letters, diaries, and sermons cited by the Founding Fathers. Wolverton looks at 37 of these sources — all ingredients in the "recipe."

Some of the ingredients covered by Wolverton were important for precipitating the break with Great Britain, while others had more impact on the political philosophy of the founding generation. "Although they [the Founders] regularly disagreed with each other about how to apply these principles politically, they — nearly without exception — accepted these principles as timeless, true, and tested," Wolverton explains. He also notes that just because the Founders cited people, that did not mean that they agreed with all of the philosophy of those they cited, or even most of it. For example, Voltaire and Rosseau advocated certain ideas that we who consider ourselves limited-government constitutionalists would find anathema, yet they were cited by the Founders.

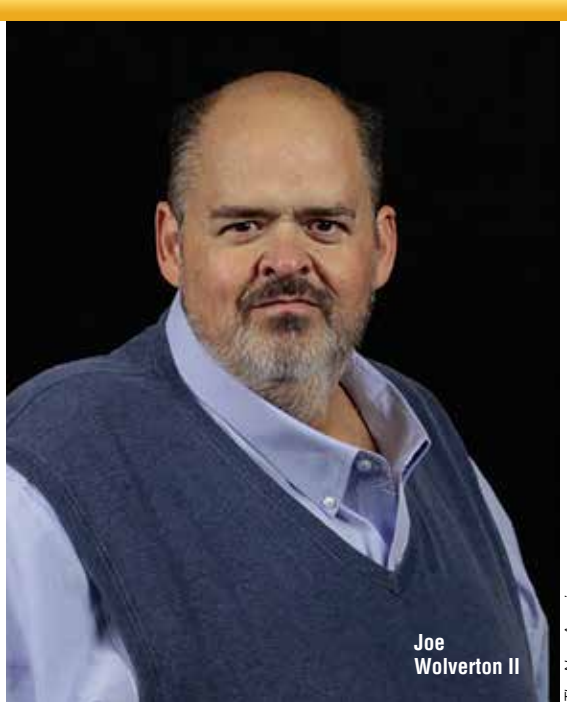
Clearly, John Locke's version of the "social contract" greatly influenced Thomas Jefferson in his writing of the Declaration of Independence, as can be seen from a cursory reading of Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*. (Wolverton cites *where* in the writings of these men, such as Locke, one can find the ideas that the Founders adopted, and also gives the reader several websites where these writings can be accessed.)

While some Americans are aware of Locke's treatises on government, few are aware of his other writings, such as *The Reasonableness of Christianity*, in which he rejected the dry deism of some Enlightenment-era writers. For example, Locke defended the miracles of the Bible, arguing that the Bible was "truth, without any mixture of error."

In Wolverton's summaries of the 37

sources, he gives brief biographies of the authors, along with the books they wrote that inspired the Founders.

"One of the best ways of demonstrating our respect for our Founding Fathers, and our dedication to the principles of liberty they bequeathed to us, is to study the books they studied," Wolverton writes. For the benefit of the reader, when Wolverton gives a quotation from one of the writings the Founders relied upon, he also notes where the Founders cited these sources, such as at the Constitutional Convention, in *The Federalist*, in the *Anti-Federalist Papers*, or at the various state conventions at which the Constitution was ratified.


Joe Wolverton II

The New American

Generally, the Founding Fathers read, in the original languages, commentaries by statesmen of ancient Greece and Rome. Twenty-seven of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were college educated, while 30 of the 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention were. In the 18th century, to even be admitted to a university, a student had to be able to read Greek and Latin. Thomas Jefferson studied at least 15 hours a day, and was seen carrying his Greek grammar book with him wherever he went.

The Founders admired Roman statesmen such as Cato the Younger, Brutus, Cassius, and Cicero — those who tried to save the republic from the caesars — and Greek thinkers such as Lycurgus and Solon. George Washington admired Cato so greatly that he had a play about Cato performed at Valley Forge so as to boost the morale of the troops. Another first-century Roman the Founders drew wisdom from was the historian Tacitus, who said, "The more numerous the laws, the more corrupt the government." Indeed, we have come to a place in our nation today in which there are so many laws that millions of Americans are said to be guilty of unknowingly committing federal crimes.

The Founders also read the words of ancient Greek philosophers such as Plato, who said, "If good men do not involve themselves in the management of the republic, the good will always be governed by those who are worse than themselves." This principle still holds true today. Many Americans want little to do with government, but this will not mean the government will leave them alone. As the saying goes, people may have no interest in politics, but politics is interested in them.

Like the ancient Greeks and Romans, the Founding Fathers considered virtue essential to the preservation of liberty. George Washington said, "Of all the dispositions which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." And the French philosopher Baron de Montesquieu similarly said, "When virtue is banished, ambition invades the minds of those who are disposed to receive it, and avarice possesses the whole community."

Speaking of Montesquieu, he was read extensively by the Founders, and for good reason. For example, he said, "There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice." No doubt his arguments in favor of separating the powers of government into different branches, such as was done to some extent in the Britain of his day and to a large extent in the days of the Roman republic, influenced the Founders as well.

"When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person," Montesquieu explained, "or in some body of magistrates, there can be no liberty." He also favored an independent judiciary, noting, "there is no liberty if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive."

Federalism was another concept advocated by Montesquieu and noted by the Founders. "If a republic be small, it is destroyed by a foreign force; if it be large, it is ruined by an internal imperfection." A "confederate republic," Montesquieu explained, is a form of government that has "all the internal advantages of a republican, together with the external force of a monarchial government." The wise words of Montesquieu were mentioned not only in debates at the Constitutional Convention, but also in *The Federalist*, in debates of the First and Second Continental Congresses, and in various state ratifying conventions. (An often-neglected part of the nation's founding is the proceedings of the state conventions that ratified the Constitution — conventions that give scholars today a good understanding of what the people believed they were agreeing to in ratifying the Constitution.)

Another person who was often on the lips of the Founding Fathers was Sir William Blackstone, whose *Commentaries on the Laws of England* was widely read in America. Such assertions as "Free men have arms. Slaves do not" no doubt greatly influenced Madison, who not only wrote the Second Amendment of our Bill of Rights, but also spoke of the right to keep and bear arms in one of his articles in *The Federalist*.

Blackstone, like Montesquieu, believed that an independent judiciary was essential to the "preservation of liberty." He called for a "distinct and separate existence of the judicial power, in a peculiar body of men, nominated indeed, but not removable at pleasure by the crown." Not surprisingly, those who wish to consolidate power in the hands of the executive, such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his bold attempt to pack the Supreme Court by adding six judges of his choosing, do not value "the preservation of liberty."

The Founding Fathers, contrary to what many schoolchildren are erroneously taught today, were not a group of atheists, skeptics, and deists. While indeed some were not as devout as others, the culture of their day was saturated with the Bible and Christianity. In fact, Wolverton asserts that the Apostle Paul was the person who had the most influence over the Founders. The

influence of Scripture cannot be overestimated, for, as Patrick Henry remarked, "It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains."

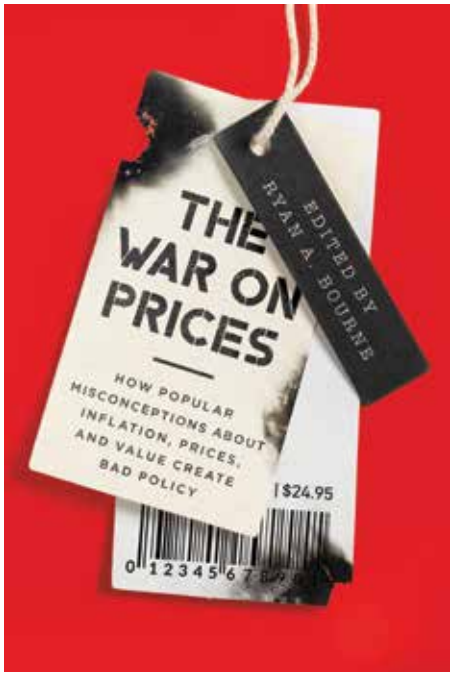
In his famous "Liberty or Death" speech, Henry said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience." History is the collective experience of the human race, and as one of the Founders' favorite men of ancient Rome — Cicero — said, to be ignorant of history "is to remain a child."

The Founders Recipe is a book that should be included in every patriot's library. A young person reading this book will, as Wolverton says, likely grow into a modern-day James Madison. ■

Rising Prices Are Not the Enemy

by William P. Hoar

***The War on Prices: How Popular Misconceptions About Inflation, Prices, and Value Create Bad Policy*,** edited by Ryan A. Bourne, Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 2024, 368 pages, hardcover.


THE WAR ON PRICES
HOW POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT INFLATION, PRICES, AND VALUE CREATE BAD POLICY
EDITED BY RYAN A. BOURNE
$24.95

What we find in these pages runs against the current torrent of mainstream media and conformist political credos: It's an appreciation of prices, dispensing treatments for misguided thinking. It shows, among its defenses of market pricing, some of the reasons behind our recent shaky economy — at a time when we are making more dollars yet finding less money with value.

Don't look here if you truly believe that rent controls help the needy. Go elsewhere — there are plenty of others willing to hand out such misdirections — if you trust the accepted judgment that inflation is caused by corporate greed. If you are sure that workplace discrimination is to blame for what we are told is a "gender pay gap," you will not be comfortable with the facts provided by the scholars in *The War on Prices.*

On the other hand, you can happily feed on chapters that do supply what is promised by their titles — broken up into three parts about inflation, prices and price controls, and value — such as "A Rising Product Price Doesn't Cause Inflation," "Price Controls Have Been Disastrous Throughout History," and "High CEO Pay Is Not a Simple Story of Rent Seeking." There are many more such toothsome topics (at least for economic nerds) among the 26 chapters.

The book is edited by Ryan A. Bourne, who holds the R. Evan Scharf Chair for the Public Understanding of Economics at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and is a columnist for *The Times* of London. Each of the three sections, as well as the overall book, has an introduction written by Bourne, who also has written three chapters in the volume (one in each part). The book's title, as described by Bourne, echoes such phrases as "the war on poverty" or "the war on drugs" in an attempt to encapsulate the "growing fervor and rhetoric surrounding something viewed as a great ill — prices of certain goods or inflation being too high — and the ensuing clamor for government controls to solve the problem."

The editor maintains that the term "war" is an appropriate one, since "it characterizes the desire for a state-led effort to usurp the free functioning of a market economy, the invocation of a moral imperative to do so, and the ultimate futility and destructiveness of the efforts." To better explore "all the underlying forces and misconceived arguments that animate this war," writes Bourne, "I have harnessed the talents of many economic thinkers to produce this volume." Many, though not all, of these contributors also have connections with the libertarian Cato Institute; their curricula vitae are included.

Damaging Policies

Politics, particularly partisan politics, is not emphasized in *The War on Prices*, but political fallout is integrated when pertinent. Accordingly, we do read about President Joe Biden's "American Rescue Plan," which "added $1.9 trillion to an economy in 2021 that was estimated to be producing output $400 billion below its output capacity." We'll grant that you don't have to be overly partisan in such commentary, but it would have driven the points home more effectively if it were recalled that this hurtful measure did pass on Democratic Party-line votes in Congress — and at a time when the economy was already recovering.

Richard Nixon's wage-and-price controls (and his taking the dollar off the gold standard), as well as Edward Heath's similar policies at the same time in the U.K., are appropriately noted. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell in this country is also mentioned critically, being among those "who rejected the monetary theory of inflation."

That theory, discussing inflation in the long run, sometimes called the quantity theory of money, was of course famously advocated by Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, who declared, "Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon, in the sense that it can be produced only by a more rapid increase in the quantity of money than in output." Similarly (though not mentioned in this book), the late Henry Hazlitt rightly called price and wage fixing harmful at any time — characterizing it as a giant step toward an authoritarian economy.

Politicians certainly do get credited throughout this volume — or (more often) demerited — for their actions. Here is an aside on Biden, referencing November 2023, when "he tweeted that companies failing to reduce prices 'as inflation has come down' were 'price gouging.'" He "seemingly," writes Bourne, "forgot that a

positive inflation rate means that, overall, prices are still rising, not falling."

Elsewhere, the miserable inflationary policies of Zimbabwe are not forgotten — with an image depicting a bill of that African nation's "One Hundred Million (Zimbabwean) Dollars." This reviewer recalls giving such notes sportively to his children years ago (that number has a 1 followed by 14 forbidding zeroes) as a way to teach them an economic lesson on the cheap (for me).

Among bouts of political hyperbole these days, it doesn't take much for an opponent to characterize someone as a "Hitler." Such slurs might bite less if we recognize that many Nazi economic policies *are* scarily similar to our era, and frequently being pushed by today's statists. One of the historical chapters of *The War on Prices* recalls Europe in 1936 and Adolf Hitler's "Price Stop" policy that year. This was, as we read, "backed up with about 7,000 decrees on individual prices." They did prove "extremely effective," continues the account, "not in stopping price increases, but in destroying the markets and consequently helping the Nazis take over the central direction of the economy."

Making Sense of Inflation

Of necessity, the three parts of this book overlap in places. Here's an example, from the "Inflation" section, in this case quoting some of those who would blame inflation on "plain-old corporate greed" (her word) — an allegation made by the demagogic (our word) Democratic U.S. senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren. Similar charges about "greedflation" seem to have originated from a far-left *Washington Post* columnist, then were picked up by ideological allies.

The following snippet comes from Brian Albrecht (chief economist of the International Center for Law & Economics), in his chapter titled "Greed and Corporate Concentration Have Not Caused Inflation." Price controls "as a means of reducing inflation more broadly are at best futile and at worst highly destructive," he says in his summarizing comments. As he has demonstrated: "Supply-and-demand factors caused the bulk of inflation [in recent years], and we know the inefficiencies of price controls" in that model. "As a policy prescription," Albrecht continues, "it's like cutting off a leg without changing one's diet and exercise habits to lose weight. It may show up in data as lower prices, but inflation will return without addressing the true underlying cause."

Remember, not long ago, when Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) was the newest and bestest thing? Of course, it was no such thing, and it has largely (one hopes) dissipated into the void. Stan Veuger (a senior fellow in economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute) gives it well-deserved short shrift in his chapter that describes how MMT has no road map for dealing with inflation. He remarks, succinctly, about what MMT boosters were doing: "Economic thinking is defenestrated and replaced with standard big-government central planning, masquerading behind bizarro accounting logic."

It's refreshing when deep thinkers take off their gloves and slug some of the leading exponents of the age of chiselry.

Counterproductive Price Controls

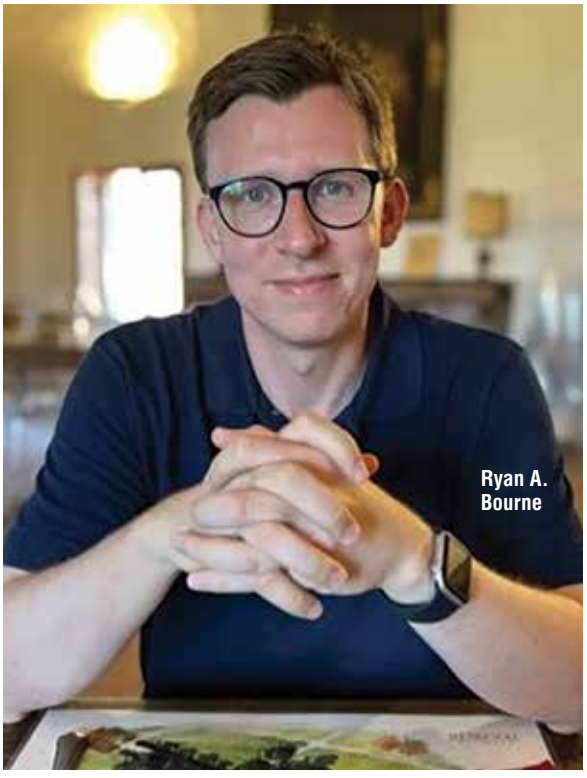
A trio of chapters stands out in the section on "Price and Price Controls." One chapter (baldly named "Price Controls Have Been Disastrous Throughout History") was written by Eamonn Butler — director of the Adam Smith Institute and co-author (with Robert Schuettinger) of a personally much-appreciated volume called *Forty Centuries of Wage and Price Controls: How Not to Fight Inflation* (first published in 1979). As Butler writes in *The War on Prices*, wage and price controls "have come full circle." In 2022, in his words,

> …four millennia after the pharaohs fatefully regulated the price of grain, the Egyptian government responded to shortages caused by the Russia-Ukraine war by again legislating the price of bread. Will we ever learn? In another 4,000 years, will somebody be writing *Eighty Centuries of Wage and Price Controls*?

If so, it might be artificial intelligence doing the writing, proving how stupidity might last for ages.

The top chapter in *The War on Prices*, in this reviewer's opinion, is by Michael Cannon and titled "Government Price Fixing Is the Rule in U.S. Health Care." It is also the longest in this volume, with multiple graphs and examples. Cannon is Cato's director of health policy studies. After considerable evidence that backs up his contention, Cannon recapitulates:

> Health wonks of all political stripes believe government price controls necessarily push prices lower. If U.S. medical prices are high, it must mean government isn't controlling prices. In the real world, U.S. medical prices are often high *because* government controls them.
>
> Medicare alone has allowed pharmaceutical manufacturers "to increase prices and capture far more value than they could when facing a market with less insurance and more flexibility," to the point where the program "might have allowed firms to capture more value than their products created."



Ryan A. Bourne

x.com/mrrbourne

Cannon, you won't be surprised, has the opposite — and rational — view. As he puts it, "The ability of freely moving market prices to improve human lives is nothing short of a marvel." (He is there quoting the inimitable F.A. Hayek in 1945.) For U.S. patients to enjoy those benefits, continues Cannon, "government must eliminate tax and regulatory distortions of health care prices — and get out of the business of purchasing health care."

There's plenty of meat for the case against minimum wages. The chapter by Joseph Sabia (chairman of the Economics Department and director of the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies at San Diego State University) reminds readers how imprudent strategies have been generating edicts in this country for decades. As noted in "Minimum Wages Are an Ineffective and Inefficient Anti-Poverty Tool" (albeit without party affiliation):

> President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the first national minimum wage — $0.25 per hour — on October 24, 1938, as part of the Fair Labor Standard Act, to alleviate deprivation among the one-third of Americans that were "ill-clad, ill-housed, and ill-nourished."
>
> In later years, Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama all reiterated the supposed link between minimum wages and poverty alleviation. In making the case for a $15 federal minimum wage in 2021, for example, President Joe Biden said: "No one should work 40 hours a week and live below the poverty wage. And if you're making less than $15 an hour, you're living below the poverty wage."

You'll generally find that those generous with federal decrees prefer not to discuss the workers who get laid off, or are not hired, or those who have their work hours slashed because of such mandated munificence.

Prices Don't Reflect What "Society" Values

Prices, as Bourne explains, do not demonstrate to us what "society" values or what people "deserve" (cited are the familiar claims that it is absurd that sports stars make so much more than doctors and nurses). Rather, as the book's editor recognizes, "prices really reflect the interaction of the supply and demand for a particular good or worker."

The section on "Value" in *The War on Prices* includes three chapters by Deirdre Nansen McCloskey, a longtime professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Author of 24 books, she holds the Isaiah Berlin Chair in Liberal Thought at Cato. In a change of pace, the chapter referenced here ("Market Prices Are Not Inherently Corrupting") begins with a quote from an 1892 play by Oscar Wilde — with two characters debating the meaning of "cynicism." One remark is well known. A cynic, one character says, is "a man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing."

The retort from the other character is less known. His response is that a "sentimentalist" is "a man who sees an absurd value in everything and doesn't know the market price of a single thing."

Thus, she calls the situation a "mixed bag," and gives the arguments of both positions. But, as you probably guessed, McCloskey believes it is "usually better to let prices work." As she concludes:

> Having permitted prices to yield efficiency, we'll have the prosperity to give a hand up to the poor, at prices that make economic and ethical sense. The right signals for overall prosperity will be sent. Running the race will be permitted, to the benefit of all. Even the poor benefit from brain surgeons [as she has earlier explained]. We all benefit from inventions. Without prices, neither efficiency nor innovation happens.
>
> Market prices are the only noncorrupting system for allocating nonsacred goods. Their appropriate extension leads to enrichment and justice.

AP Images

Considering our current perilous situation, the nation's economy is pointed in an even more dangerous direction (worthy of another free-market book as well as sane political action) — with huge deficits; a menacing, growing National Debt; and an out-of-control Federal Reserve, which almost tripled the nation's money supply between 2008 and 2024, guaranteeing that inflation would be a problem.

Meanwhile, here's some free advice: Do try to save money. It might be valuable someday — and that could occur sooner if the precepts in this volume ever catch on. ■

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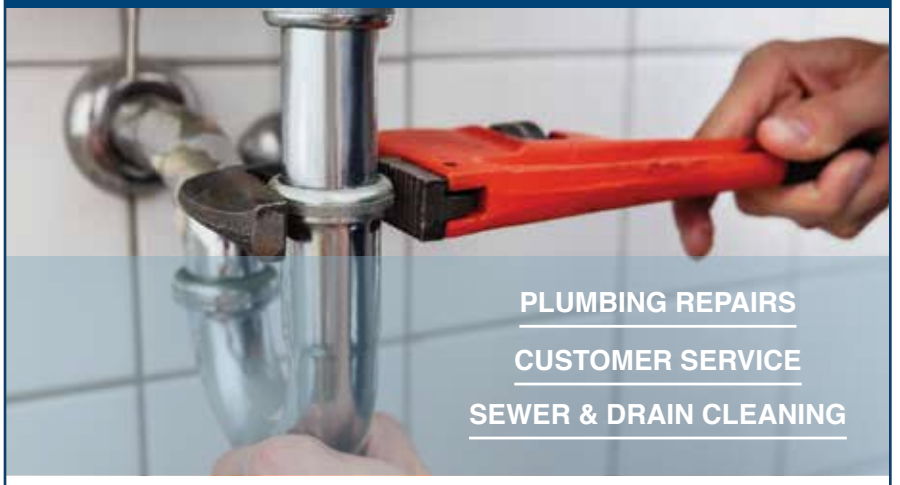

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THE LAST WORD

A New Year's Resolution That Could Spark Revolution

by Selwyn Duke

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It's that season again, that time for New Year's resolutions, when we put our minds to perhaps giving up junk food or engaging in regular exercise. Yet while this is all well and good, even better is to add to it the aim of purging the spiritual junk food of sin from one's life and exercising virtue. And while the virtues are many, one that perhaps warrants some special attention is honesty.

British anthropologist Thomas Henry Huxley once stated that "veracity is the heart of morality." It makes sense, too. Just as we can't understand what is proper tennis instruction or medical care if we imbibe lies relating to the endeavor's principles, how can we know what is proper morality if we're subject to lies relating to it?

Robert Welch, the founder of The John Birch Society, emphasized honesty's importance as much as anyone. As he wrote in 1970, "If all men (and women too, of course), from diplomats to drunken bums, would simply resolve tomorrow always to be truthful, about everything — to the best of their knowledge and understanding — and would then abide by that resolution, I believe that fully half of all the troubles and grief of the human race would disappear within six months."

This isn't likely overstatement. The "road to Hell" can be "paved with good intentions" only because intent is motivated by information, and what appears as such can sometimes be misinformation. *Most* people have good intentions, too; they want their society to be better. But it's as with a computer: garbage in, garbage out. No matter how sound the hardware and software, bad input will generate bad output. Likewise, how can a people in the grip of misinformation relating to politicians and policies choose the right politicians and policies?

And discovering Truth is a process. It's as with a detective trying to solve a case: He follows one clue to the next, accumulating evidence until he has assembled enough pieces of that metaphorical jigsaw puzzle to see the big picture. If someone, however, gives him misinformation — or if he refuses to follow a lead because he's scared of what he might find (e.g., a friend or powerful person may be involved) — he may never know the Truth. So it is with all people, individually and in the aggregate. Figuring out the "case" that is healthcare, national security, immigration, or anything else requires following the clues and accepting the evidence, no matter where it takes you.

Now, I don't suppose very many *New American* readers are inveterate liars. But the above analogy gets at how honesty isn't simply a matter of not deceiving others. Even more significant, and perhaps harder to avoid, is deceiving oneself; this is the imperative of intellectual honesty. For once self-delusion becomes reality, telling untruths to others happens as just a matter of course.

Lying to oneself, rationalization, is interesting, too. We do it, obviously, when an aspect of reality is scary, uncomfortable, or highly inconvenient, perhaps because it's contrary to a cherished agenda. And thinking back to when I certainly did rationalize at times, as a child in relatively trivial matters, you often have an inkling it's happening. There's an unease, a sense that you're hiding from an unwelcome reality, keeping it quarantined in your mind's recesses so that it never has its day in intra-cranial court.

There is, though, a prerequisite for seeking and accepting the Truth in all things and in all times and in all situations: loving it. And a prerequisite for this is understanding that it's real, something transcending man and above him. This is just as how we only put God above all else when accepting His reality (and, of course, He is Truth's author) and loving Him — or at least, in the morally stunted's case, fearing Him. For it may be hard enough subordinating our feelings, which can be disordered, to divine injunctions, never mind to what's imaginary.

So a good resolution in this relativistic time, in which occultist Aleister Crowley's maxim "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law" is gaining currency, is to ask: Do we believe in Truth? If so, do we *behave* as if it exists? Do we do our utmost to be honest with ourselves, making Truth paramount so that *it* becomes our "agenda"?

If enough Americans were honest with themselves and expressed to others the amount of apropos Truth they know, we'd have a real information revolution, one that would bring us as close to utopia as is found this side of Heaven. ■

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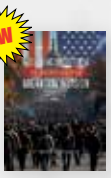

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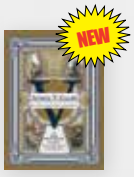

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